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Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

'New Israeli Plan To Assassinate' 'Arafat Reported

JN0103153690 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 28 Feb 90 p 19

[Text] Cairo—The Palestinian revolution security service is now monitoring a new Israeli plan to assassinate Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. A prominent PLO figure told AL-WATAN that three Palestinians who are Mosad agents left Israel for Europe last week on different airlines en route to Tunisia to participate in the assassination.

In another development, unofficial Egyptian sources said that last week two reports were submitted to the Presidential Office from Egyptian General Intelligence and State Security on the results of investigations into the armed attack on the Israeli tourist bus on the Ismailia-Cairo highway. The sources said that the reports agree in their content and general conclusions that the hand of the Israeli Mosad, in particular, played an important role in planning the incident. Its purpose was to cover up the scheme for Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and to abort peace efforts that would have resulted in a tripartite meeting among Egypt, Israel, and the United States in preparation for the Palestinian-Israeli meeting and dialogue in Cairo.

PNC's Al-Sa'ih Interviewed on Soviet Jews

LD0103124190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1140 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, March 1st (KUNA)—Speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC] (parliament in exile) Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih Thursday called for a decisive action toward the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and the danger this issue poses on Arab security. In an interview with KUNA, Shaykh al-Sa'ih called for unity and solidarity among Arabs and Muslims so as to curb the [word indistinct] of the Soviet Jewish immigration that is threatening to be a new disaster to be added to those of 1948 and 1967. The PNC speaker said the Soviet Union is responsible for this new wave of emigration after backing of previous commitments that it would not recognize Israel, and would not allow the Jews to emigrate except after the Arab-Israel conflict is resolved.

He emphasized that the Palestinian people are the ones who have the right to return home in implementation of their natural rights and the United Nations resolutions, while allowing the Jews to emigrate to Israel constitutes a stance that is hostile to the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nations.

He expressed belief that the current circumstances necessitate holding of an Arab summit conference to discuss the emigration problem and the Palestinian crisis in general as well as the situation in Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq conflict. He emphasized that it is time for the Arab leaders to take a unified position toward the Lebanese crisis that guarantees a settlement, unity and soverignty of that Arab country.

The Palestinian official urged the Arabs to speak with the U.S. about the dangers posed by Israel as a power of hegemony in the region and to convince Israel of the need to change its approach which is opposed to the Palestinian state and the PLO.

WAFA Rebuts Junblatt Criticism of Mediation

LD0103195290 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] WAFA's political editor commented on the statements made by Mr. Walid Junblatt in which he criticized the policy of the PLO and the initiative made by the Palestinian president to put an end to bloodshed in Lebanon. He said:

When the PLO made its initiative to put an end to bloodshed in Lebanon, it thought that developments in the situation in Lebanon are far more critical than Mr. Junblatt thinks. It predicts a speeding up toward division and partition, leading to the establishment of sectarian entities. Consequently, the organization is making every possible effort to put a halt to these events to preserve the unity of Lebanon, which is one of the guarantees of the Palestinian victory. This issue is no less important than the Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, in our view, which is a view that Mr. Junblatt is supposed to adopt more quickly than us, unless he has different ties.

'Important' PLO Decisions Expected in Two Weeks

TA0103183590 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 28 Feb 90 pp 1, 11

["Exclusive"]

[Excerpt] It is expected that the coming few days will witness intensive high-level Palestinian meetings in the Iraqi and Tunisian capitals, preceded by important meetings that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will hold with the Jordanian king, the Egyptian president, and the Iraqi president.

Palestinian sources say that a summit meeting comprising the four leaders will be held later. Meanwhile, contacts are under way with Damascus by more than one side so that President al-Asad can attend this summit in the wake of the bilateral meetings.

These sources add that important Palestinian steps and decisions related to the developments in the political process will be adopted within the next two weeks, both on the internal and external levels.

These sources indicate that the Egyptian and Jordanian capitals will shortly witness Palestinian consultations before the adoption of these decisions and steps.

In another development, it is expected that Israel will take measures to lift travel restrictions from the occupied territories. It has been noticed that intensive Western and U.S. consular activity is under way in the occupied territories. This activity is taking place throughout the

Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem, and includes meetings between the consuls and a number of notables inside the territories. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Distributes Political Leaflet

JN2702202790 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] The Islamic Jihad movement distributed a political statement in Palestine this afternoon. The statement says: Despite the depth of the wounds and pains, the gravity of the plot, the ugliness of the plotters, and the ferocity of the enemy, we are proceeding down the path of our glory, as firm as mountains. The continuation of the revolutionary intifadah is our only and right way out of humiliation and slavery.

The statement adds: There exists a conspiracy aiming, first and last, at aborting the option of jihad and revolution. The United States is misleading our people by putting forward a series of initiatives that propagates illusions on peace and settlement. It is playing the game of the so-called U.S.-Palestinian dialogue to gain further concessions in favor of its strategic Zionist ally. In the meantime, the Zionist entity, for its part, exploits Arab silence and makes desperate attempts to crush our blessed intifadah using all means and policies—ranging from economic war, murder, and bone-breaking to a media war. The statement gives warning to all those who plot against our people's full right to return to their entire land.

'Arafat Meets Nelson Mandela in Lusaka

JN0103180290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has held a one-hour talk in Lusaka with South African leader Nelson Mandela. The meeting was held shortly after Mandela's arrival in Zambia on his first trip outside his homeland since his release by the racist Pretoria regime. The two noted that the peoples of Palestine and South Africa are waging a common struggle against imperialism and racism.

Abu-'Ammar flew into Lusaka the day before yesterday to be on hand along with leaders of frontline African states for the arrival of the African freedom fighter.

'Arafat Says Jewish Emigration 'Real Danger'

JN2702190590 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] In an interview with French television last night, Brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said that the intensive emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel constitutes a real danger to Palestinians and to peace in the Middle East. In the interview, broadcast by Channel 5 of the French television, brother Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine, expressed discontent with the emigration, which arose after Moscow permitted all Jews wanting to emigrate to Israel to do so. Brother president Yasir 'Arafat said: How can they prevent me, along with all those Palestinians expelled from their land like myself, from returning to our homeland, while there are persons who bear Soviet citizenship who have never been to this region in the past and who do not belong to the 12 Israelite tribes coming here and taking our place? Is this logical? Brother Yasir 'Arafat added that the Soviet Jews are being settled by force in Israel, while instead they should be able to choose their destination freely.

Qaddumi Receives Pakistan's Nusrat Bhutto

JN0103182690 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] In Tunis yesterday, Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Political Department chief, received Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto, first deputy prime minister and leader of the Pakistan People's Party. They discussed the latest Palestinian developments, with special emphasis on the intifadah and Palestinian global political moves and East Asia developments.

Mrs. Bhutto expressed the Pakistani people's complete solidarity with the Palestinian people and their just struggle.

PLO London Office Status Reportedly Upgraded

JN0203082290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] London, 2 Mar (WAKH)—British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd held talks last night in London with Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, amid speculation about an Israeli-Palestinian peace dialogue.

The British Foreign Office has said that Hurd wants to encourage the PLO to maintain its current political course, which the Foreign Office describes as moderate.

BBC radio has said that the meeting is significant for the PLO. The first meeting between the British foreign secretary and 'Arafat's adviser was held in 1989.

Meanwhile, BBC radio has cited the PLO as saying that the representative status of its office in London has been upgraded, and that from now on it will be known as the PLO delegation in the United Kingdom [wafd munazamat al-tahrir al-filastiniyah fi al-mamlakah al-muttahidah].

The British Foreign Office says that Hurd reiterated Britain's objection to any settlement [of immigrants] and told Abu-Sharif that the British Government is doing its best to help boost the peace process.

Algeria

More on FLN Central Committee Emergency Session

LD0103143690 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] The National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee convened an extraordinary session in the Palace of Nations this morning to discuss several important matters included in the agenda. Radio correspondent Lahcene Chaiche reports:

Dear listeners. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. The implementation of the extraordinary congress' resolutions, the preparation of a strategy for communal and provincial elections, the laying down of a basis for unifying the resources of the popular masses, organizational, and financial issues were the official points which the Political Bureau planned for this extraordinary session of the FLN.

The party secretary general presented these points for approval, which were completed according to centralized democracy. After this, and as usual, committees which work on these points were to be formed. However, the opposite took place as voices were raised by those who did not approve of the agenda, and affirmed from the very beginning that they rejected centralized democracy. Those who attended the extraordinary party congress would notice a similarity between what took place at the beginning of the congress and what is happening now at the beginning of this session, the only difference being that the session was longer.

We do not know whether the secretary general purposely allowed journalists to remain in the hall, or whether the interventions which took place made those present forget the presence of the press. This is a matter for which the Front is thanked.

Aside from the points of the agenda, the secretary general wished to focus on the debate on economic reforms. On this topic the secretary general said frankly that the remaining issues were the economic ones, and that we should not let the party go around in the vacuum of slogans and permit economic resolutions to be decided upon by technocrats at the level of the Presidency. Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri attempted to say that the economic reforms were the program of the front, and on which it and no other must prepare resolutions, and the people should know that.

In a charged atmosphere, interventions started with regard to the organization points. In reply to this latter point, one of those who intervened said the government was not that of the front. Another one said: We have not agreed yet on the economic reforms and not even on some of the political reforms. In reality, the secretary general was confused as to what he understood. What we understood was that there were some who wanted a change in the agenda; this is a technical operation. The interventions, however, were political rather than purely technical. Because of this, it was clear from the start that it would not be possible to reach any agreement, and for that reason, the secretary general decided to adjourn the session at 1230. Two hours of a discussion had produced nothing.

As observers, we would say only a minority focused their interventions on the discussion of the country's problems and the clarification of the dividing line between the front and the other political organizations, and the definition of the electoral program of the front. As for the other interventions, they were divided, but had in common the rejection of the style used by the leadership and the current compositon of the Political Bureau. When Mr. Mehri said that the one who was in the Political Bureau was not necessarily the best one in the Central Committee, and the one present in the Central Committee was not necessarily the best among the militants, and that the way he adopted in defining this was a political endeavor, one of the members replied that a secret ballot at the grassroots level would lead to the choice of the best militants.

Mr. Mehri pointed out that the method followed for the choice of the Central Committee was the one followed in the choice of the members of the Political Bureau, and wondered why it was accepted in the first instance and rejected in the second.

In all this, an observer has the right to wonder whether these differences which called for the convening of an extraordinary congress, describing that what was taking place was making available the conditions for the burial of the Front, would continue like this, or would be ended in a definitive way in the interest of the party and the country. With all this—and this is indeed a strange matter—all those who intervened agreed that the Front is the principal force in the country. Lahcene Chaiche from the Palace of Nations.

Session Resumes 2 Mar

LD0203081690 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The extraordinary session of the National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee continues in the Palace of Nations today. Yesterday evenings session was characterized by the a general debate and the setting up of three committees. For more details here is a report by our colleague Brahim:

[Brahim] At the beginning of the session, the setting up of three committees was approved. These committees are:

—The committee for implementation of the resolutions of the FLN extraordinary congress.
—The committee for the FLN strategy in the communal and provincial elections.
—The committee for organizational and financial matters, among which are the front's relations with the government, the National People's Assembly, and the trade unions. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak's Visit to Moscow 'Postponed'

NC0103155290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1438 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—MENA has learned that President Husni Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union has been postponed. The visit was orginally planned for 19 March. MENA also learned President Mubarak sent a personal message to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on this issue through diplomatic channels.

There will be intensive political activities in Cairo in March requiring President Mubarak's presence. Egypt will welcome a number of presidents of fraternal and friendly countries, including Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. The African parliamentary conference will also be held in Cairo in March. [passage omitted]

Soviet Ambassador Meets 'Abd-al-Majid, Comments

NC0103153390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1448 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Soviet Ambassador to Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev stated that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, delivered a verbal message to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

In a statement he made after meeting with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid today, the Soviet ambassador said he will leave for Moscow in a few days for consultations with his government on Egyptian-Soviet relations and on Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

MENA learned that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's message concerns developments in the Middle East, the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, and bilateral relations.

'Abd-al-Majid Comments on Israeli Practices

NC2702140290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1219 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Israel's repressive practices and collective punishment in the occupied territories increasingly concerns and annoys all those concerned with the Middle East peace issue. It also concerns those who defend human rights and the Geneva agreements. He affirmed that such practices failed to frustrate the Palestinian's legitimate demands or wipe out the valiant intifadah.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid went on to say that the international community is called on now more than ever to confront these practices. He also urged the peace-loving forces to try to attain a just, comprehensive settlement which would address the hopes and aspirations of the Middle East people and restore the desired peace and stability to the region.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid was commenting on news reports about the Israeli Army's increasing its indiscriminate firing at the Rafah camp inhabitants in the occupied Gaza Strip during the past two days. The Israelis injured scores of Palestinians and imposed an all-out curfew on the Gaza Strip, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid concluded.

Official Denies Statement on Danger From Israel

NC2802145790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1147 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—An official source has denied a report published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN last Monday [26 February] attributing a statement to Major General Munir Shash, governor of North Sinai, in which he reportedly said that the danger of an Israeli invasion still exists on Egypt's eastern border and that Israel could, in view of the current military balance, annex parts of Sinai in order to defend its Negev border.

The source said that the North Sinai governor did not meet any reporters working for this newspaper and did not make any statement. He described the report as fabricated, illogical, and contrary to the facts.

The official source questioned the real motive behind fabrications such as these, which some papers in the region constantly publish.

Sources Deny Syrian Summit Delayed by Bus Incident

JN0103171090 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Feb 90 p 1

[By Fikriyah Ahmad]

[Text] Interior Ministry security sources have denied a REUTER report on a possibile connection between the delay of the Egyptian-Syrian summit and the Israeli bus incident in Cairo. The security sources said the results of investigations into the bus incident have not been announced in order not to harm the investigations. The sources also denied that the Egyptian security services—according to REUTER—submitted their reports on the incident to Israel. The sources explained that the security services are moving in the right direction toward apprehending the culprits in order to protect tourism.

'Abd-al-Majid Sends Message to PLO's Qaddumi

NC0103134290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1307 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—MENA has learned that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and

foreign minister, sent a message today to Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department. The message dealt with recent developments in the Middle East.

Mubarak Speaks With Leaders on Phone

NC2602132490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Yemen Arab Republic President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih telephoned President Husni Mubarak this morning. The two leaders exchanged views on the results of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] summit in Amman and the resolutions made.

His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan also telephoned President Mubarak this afternoon. They exchanged views on a number of Arab issues discussed at the ACC summit. The contact came before King Husayn's tour of a number of Arab countries in the Gulf region.

President Mubarak telephoned Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh this afternoon. They discussed developments in South Asia and the Middle East.

Mauritanian President's Envoy Arrives in Cairo

NC0203063690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2359 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Mauritanian Mines and Industry Minister Mohamed Salem Lemine arrived in Cairo tonight as a personal envoy of Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya for a visit to Egypt for several days. He is due to meet with some senior officials.

Three Jihad Members Arrested in Giza

JN0103185090 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 28 Feb 90 p 13

[By Husayn Ghanim]

[Excerpt] The Public Fund Interrogation Department at the Interior Ministry has arrested three accountants who are members of the Jihad Organization. The three members opened a phony export and import office in Giza to cover up their hard currency dealings in the black market to finance the organization. Hard currency estimated at half a million pounds was seized. The financial affairs prosecutor's office ordered their release on bail but the foreign minister decided to keep them in custody. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Qatari Commerce Minister Concludes Visit

LD0103215990 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The visit by the Qatari minister of commerce and economy, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasmin Bin-Hamad al-Thani, to Morocco was concluded this morning. [passage omitted]

On leaving the airport, the Qatari minister gave the radio the following statement:

[Begin Shaykh Hamad recording] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

First of all, I am very happy that my visit to the fraternal country of Morocco was crowned with success. At the end of the visit we signed an economic agreement, which will be a framework for economic interaction between our two countries. I pray to God that this agreement will be the beginning of good and prosperity for our two countries and the beginning of an increasingly cooperative relation between our two peoples.

On this occasion I invite the brother investors in both countries to start studying investment projects in both countries and to work toward developing them. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Sudan

Fighting Continues Between Army, SPLA Rebels

80 SPLA 'Outlaws' Surrender

EA2802203690 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] [no dateline as received] About 80 members of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army recently surrendered with all their weapons to the authorities in Malakal. This was announced in a news statement by Staff Brigadier Pio Yukwan, National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] member and supervisor general of the southern council. He said another group of outlaws is on its way to surrender, pointing out that the general amnesty issued by the government is still in effect.

His excellency affirmed the calmness of the security situation in Malakal, pointing to the presence of more than 50,000 migrants in the town who have arrived from Jonglei and Nasir Provinces.

The brigadier added that a fast and urgent plan has been drawn up to transport relief supplies to Malakal, and that there are measures being undertaken (?to despatch) medicines to the town to contain al-Ghar disease, which is rampant there.

Rebels Cite 'Victory'

EA2803221090 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] The chairman and commander in chief, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, has, on this occasion of a magnificent victory, sent millions of congratulations to the commander, officers, NCO's and men of "Bright Star" campaign phase 1, northern sector. Continue comrades, Aluta, continue, and SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] oye, SPLA oye [hail SPLA].

In other developments, SPLA scored more military successes. "Bright Star" campaign phase three forces in Western Equatoria conducted a series of raids on the enemy force at Bridge 45, inflicting heavy casualties in men and material.

While on 26th February 1990, the same forces annihilated an enemy convoy moving from Kagwada in an attempt to rescue their force at Bridge 45, the whole convoy was completely dispersed. Four bodies were found at the ambush site, and the following were captured:

A. (Star) lorry number 8749 in good condition;
B. Two G-3 rifles, numbers 957 and 995 in good condition;
C. 12,600 rounds of AKM;
D. 160 shells of 82mm mortar;
E. 36 shells of RPG-7;
F. A large quantity of medicines and 10 drums of diesel.

Meanwhile, chiefs, subchiefs, and mukungus [village elders] in the Yei, Lanya, Kagwada and Bridge 40 areas are directing to SPLA collection centers enemy soldiers who have either deserted their units or who got lost. And those who choose to join the SPLA are being absorbed immediately and taken to rear bases for rest and orientation. [sounds of martial music]

Meanwhile, in Bahr al-Ghazal, an enemy convoy has been pinned down between Wau and Tonj, and preparations are completed for their destruction. [sounds of martial music]

Army Claims Victories Over Rebels

EA0103085190 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Two outlaws surrendered to our Armed Forces last Sunday, 26 [as heard] February, complete with their weapons. They reported a drop in morale among the rebels. They said the rebel forces are suffering from an acute shortage of ammunition and rations. They also confirmed that there are large numbers of outlaws who are on their way to surrender to our Armed Forces. Our Armed Forces issued a statement today. Here is its text:

Peace from a position of strength is the best victory for the nation. In reinforcement of that principle, which was approved by the people and confirmed by their Armed Forces, a military convoy from the Armed Forces yesterday clashed with an ambush set by the outlaws in the Juba area with a force estimated at thousands of rebels.

A fierce battle took place. It continued for six hours, during which the outlaws used a T-55 tank, Israeli (ZU) guns, and launchers. The Armed Forces managed, as usual, to defeat the scattered remnants of the outlaws. They ran away, leaving behind them large numbers of killed and wounded.

The Armed Forces also managed to capture a Ural vehicle loaded with ammunition, a (ZU) gun, and a B-10 gun in this battle.

Enumeration of the losses of the outlaws is still proceeding. There were no losses among our forces.

Rebels Claim Battle Victories

EA0103093190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Forces of the "Bright Star" campaign, phase 1, Northern Sector, clashed with a large enemy convoy, the so-called Jund al-Watan al-Wahid [Soldiers of the Single Homeland] on 25 February 1990 to the 27th of February 1990, at (Khawr Makwach), between Mongala and Juba and about 25 miles from Juba.

The convoy, which was composed of about 190 vehicles and over 3,000 soldiers reinforced with tanks, heavy artillery, and general purpose heavy machineguns, left Malakal on 31 January 1990, charged with the mission to recapture all SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army]-held towns east of the Nile. The convoy fell into a deliberate SPLA ambush in the Ayod [central Upper Nile] area on 10th of February 1990, and was pushed back 20 km.

In the meantime, the junta's military situation in Juba and Yei deteriorated, and the General Headquarters in Khartoum reinforced the so-called Jund al-Watan al-Wahid and changed its mission to the rescue of Juba and Yei in west Equatoria, instead of the recapture of East Nile. The convoy was thus ordered to avoid all SPLA ambushes in East Nile by moving in the so-called Sahara, a no-man's waterless-like wilderness between Waat, Kongor, Pibor, and Bor [all in Upper Nile], and to rush to Juba without delay.

SPLA forces of the "Bright Star" campaign closely monitored the movement of the so-called Jund al-Watan al-Wahid convoy, and warned them that the SPLA knew exactly where they would be destroyed if they did not heed the advice to go back to Malakal. They did not heed that advice and consequently, Jund al-Watan al-Wahid has been dealt a deadly blow. The convoy is effectively incapacitated, and Jund al-Watan al-Wahid is no longer a fighting force. [martial music]

On 25 February 1990, the so-called Jund al-Watan al-Wahid emerged from the Sahara wilderness, between

Mongala and Mogiri, where the SPLA expected them and where a perfect deliberate ambush awaited them. Heavy fighting immediately broke out at 1230 hours [1030 GMT] till nightfall, and resumed again the following day for the whole day. The enemy convoy suffered very heavy casualties in men and materiel.

Three hundred and twenty-one enemy bodies were found left on the battlefield and reports from captured enemy soldiers revealed that several hundred others are wounded. More than 50 vehicles were destroyed, including: three T-52 tanks and one T-55 tank. More than 40 percent of the so-called Jund al-Watan al-Wahid has been put out of action, either killed, wounded, or missing. Remnants of the so-called Jund al-Watan al-Wahid have now been surrounded five km from (Khawr Makwach), where they are now shelling at random in panic and utter confusion. SPLA forces are poised to complete total annihilation of this so-called Jund al-Watan al-Wahid. This convoy was the hope of Juba and Yei. Enemy forces in Yei, Lanya, and Kagwada are here told the naked truth—that Jund al-Watan al-Wahid will never reach them, and they must not believe the lies of Juba and Khartoum that rescue is around the corner. That is a very, very long and hazardous corner, and we assure Yei, Lanya, and Kagwada that no rescue will ever reach them.

SPLA has never lied. We strongly advise and urge the commanders, officers, NCO's and men in Yei, Lanya, and Kagwada to make up their minds quickly and to take independent action to leave peacefully, and SPLA will open the way for you; otherwise, if you continue to remain in your present location, you will continue to die or to be wounded.

Those in Juba and Khartoum do not know your real conditions. You are the ones who know completely, and it is you who must decide. The decision to withdraw cannot be ordered by Juba or Khartoum. It is you in Yei, Lanya, and Kagwada who must make this decision.

Those in Torit, Waat, and recently in Kajo Kaji, Kaia, Yei, Morobo, and Lassu [all in west Equatoria) made the decision to withdraw, and they are alive today. Others who made the foolish decision not to withdraw in a hopeless situation, such as in Nasir, Keyala, and Bor, were destroyed, and are dead and forgotten by Juba and Khartoum.

To those of Yei, Lanya, and Kagwada: We advise and urge that you do not fall into the deadly mistake as those of Keyala, Bor, or Nasir. Withdraw before it is too late. [sounds of martial music]

Intelligence Official Says Egypt Supports Rebels

NC2702123690 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 23 Feb 90 p 1

[REUTER report]

[Text] Brigadier General Kamal Mukhtar, deputy chief of Sudanese military intelligence, has accused Egypt of supporting the rebels in southern Sudan. This is the first accusation against Cairo since the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation [RCCNS] assumed power in Sudan in last June.

At a closed national media conference on the evening of 21 February, Brig. Gen. Mukhtar said Egypt is adopting an open-door policy in relation to the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA]. Conference participants cite Brig. Gen. Mukhtar as saying that the Egyptian Government has allowed southern Sudanese students in Cairo to engage in anti-RCCNS activities.

The accusation comes at a time when Arab diplomats note that RCCNS Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir expressed annoyance with Egypt's not voicing full support for his government during his talks with President Husni Mubarak in Cairo two days ago. The diplomats note that Al-Bashir was disappointed that Egypt did not declare that it is prepared to participate in peace talks between Khartoum and the SPLA.

The diplomats have expressed their belief that Egypt, traditionally Sudan's ally, is trying to keep its distance from the Sudanese RCCNS, which is widely believed to follow a strict Islamic course and adopt an increasingly hard-line policy toward the southern rebels.

In any case, Brig. Gen. Mukhtar's remarks seem contradictory to statements by Egyptian State Minister for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali on coordinating Egyptian and Sudanese diplomatic policies and on Egypt's efforts to make the next round of peace talks between the Sudanese Government and the rebels successful.

Dr. Ghali stopped in Khartoum yesterday on his way to Addis Ababa. While there, he held talks with 'Ali Shummu, the Sudanese information minister and acting foreign minister.

Council of Ministers Denies Report

NC2802193690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Feb (MENA)—The Sudanese Council of Ministers released a statement today emphasizing that Egypt and Sudan have fraternal and historic

relations and that the leader of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council and the Egyptian leaderhip have a close and distinguished understanding which is steadily growing. The statement said that any attempt to harm the fraternal relations between Egypt and Sudan will fail and that any rumors broadcast by biased media will not harm the relations, which are above suspicion, between the peoples of the Nile Valley.

The statement was responding to a Voice of America report citing a REUTER report attributed to a Sudanese official. The report basically said that Egypt helps the rebel movement and that Al-Bashir was disappointed in his recent visit to Egypt. The statement condemned these claims and denounced REUTER, saying it often fabricates false news about Sudan and its revolution. The statement affirmed that the visit to Egypt by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, National Salvation Revolution Command Council chairman, was successful and that his talks with President Mubarak dealt with strengthening ties and consolidating the bonds between the two fraternal peoples.

Cabinet Denounces 'Lies'

EA0103122990 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum Mar 1 (SUNA)—The Council of Ministers General Secretariat has denounced as prefabricated a report by the Voice of America aimed at harming the developed Sudanese-Egyptian relations.

In a statement it issued yesterday, the General Secretariat said the Voice of America, quoted REUTER, which has got accustomed to disseminating false news about the Sudan and its revolution making use of the tolerance of the Sudanese people who are hosting its correspondent here.

"What was amazing in the REUTERS' news item as broadcast by the Voice of America, was that it came in the wake of a successful visit by the Command Council Chairman General 'Umar al-Bashir to Egypt, in which he discussed with the Egyptian president and officials means for further consolidating bilateral relations", said the statement.'

"The eternal ties between the people of the Nile Valley need not be affirmed by us or by our brothers in Egypt and could not be destabilized by lies disseminated by the ill-purposed media", the statement said.

PLO's 'Arafat Stops Over in Khartoum

EA2803213290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Mr Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian state, made a stop over at Khartoum Airport today, where he was received by Major General Al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council.

Maj. Gen. Al-Zubayr told SUNA that their discussions dealt with Arab issues in general and the Palestinian issue in particular, including ways of supporting Palestine in circumstances which witness the organized migration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories.

Delegation To Depart for Libya 1 Mar

AB2802193890 Khartoum SUNA in English 0924 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Feb (SUNA)—Member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), Col. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah is due to leave for Libya leading a 25-man delegation to take part in the Libyan People's General Conference scheduled to start sessions in Tripoli tomorrow.

Deputy commissioner of the national capital, Col. Yusuf 'Abd-al-Fatah, heads of the Sudanese popular committees, and members of the national dialogue conference on peace will accompany Col. Khalifah on his visit to Libya.

Al-Bashir Interviewed on Ethiopian Ties, Rebels

JN2602064690 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Feb 90 pp 2, 3

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council in Sudan, by chief editor Mafuz al-Ansari on 21 February in Cairo]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Question: You have touched on a number of neighboring countries but said nothing important about Ethiopia. How much progress have you made toward normalizing relations?

Al-Bashir: I can tell you that we have reached a good measure of understanding with Ethiopia since we assumed office. Relations have, however, become rather lukewarm thanks to intensified fighting in the southern Sudan, the backing the rebels in the south have been receiving, and stepped up action by the Eritreans against the Ethiopian regime. But we are making sincere efforts to contain the situation and feel—we even believe—that cooperation with Ethiopia is a key issue. We sense that good-neighborliness is of vital importance to our two countries, since our problems are intertwined and we need cooperation if were are to sort them out. Any problem either of the two countries faces is bound to adversely affect the other. We therefore seek to build bridges of mutual confidence with Ethiopia so a resolution of our outstanding problems becomes feasible.

Question: But the Sudanese Government is allegedly providing assistance to the Eritreans to help their effort against the Addis Ababa regime. How do you react?

Al-Bashir: The allegation is prompted by the presense of large numbers of Eritrean refugees in Sudan. But there are no training camps for the Eritreans anywhere in Sudan. Neither will we allow for any anti-Ethiopian

operations to be launched from Sudanese territory. I would categorically deny allegations that we are providing assistance to Eritrean refugees in Sudan or other Eritreans outisde Sudan. And, frankly speaking, it is beyond our means to offer such assistance.

Question: In the context of movement toward peace, you have held two rounds of talks with John Garang—the first in Addis Ababa, and the second in Nairobi. A third round of talks was supposed to have been convened by now. What is the delay?

Al-Bashir: Yes, we did hold two rounds in Addis Ababa and Nairobi, both achieving a measure of success but falling short of our expectations. It is hoped the third round will prove more fruitful. Let me divulge a secret, and that is that brother President Husni Mubarak himself, assisted by President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, is working to set up the next round. This does not mean that consultations and contacts have stopped. These are going on to bridge our views ahead of the negotiations.

Question: Which capital will be the venue of the coming peace talks?

Al-Bashir: It will be either Cairo or Kinshasa.

Question: Given that some success was had in the previous two rounds, and in light of the national dialogue resolutions and the adoption of federalism as the system of government, what differences remain?

Al-Bashir: We proposed an integrated program for a settlement based on the resolutions and recommendations of the national dialogue conference that grouped all the representatives of the Sudanese people in the north and south of the country and all the sects and political forces. The blueprint represents an integrated plan. We told the southern brothers that we first have to resolve outstanding problems and then we may proceed to matters of procedure and to put to work the specifics of the program after extensive deliberations with the rebel movement. They praised the resolutions of the dialogue conference and the integrated plan for a solution. But they insist on beginning with procedures. In my opinion, this approach is a case of putting the cart before the horse, since procedures in themselves do not lead to a solution.

Question: Just what are the contentious points?

Al-Bashir: They are pressing for shari'a laws to be repealed, when a solution to this matter was provided in the resolutions. The program calls for the shari'a and convention to be the sources for the laws. In other words, shari'a will be for the Muslims and convention for non-Muslims. There is no coercion here; religious freedom is guaranteed, and distinctions are recognized.

They also want abrogation of the joint defense pact with Egypt. We have said openly that this pact cannot and will not have any bearing on the issue of war and peace in southern Sudan. The pact was directed against foreign aggression and has no provisions whatsoever in connection with internal problems. In any case, the agreement with Egypt was signed in 1976—seven years before the rebel movement began in 1983.

The third sticking point is their demand that their strength in the national Army be 50 percent—an unreasonable and unacceptable demand, of course. This point was addressed more comprehensively by the national dialogue conference resolutions. The question of power-sharing is the main thing, and through dialogue at all levels and establishments including the Armed Forces it will be possible to determine their share. I must emphasize, though, that their demand for a 50 percent share in the Army cannot possibly be met. [passage omitted]

Information Conference Makes Recommendations

EA0103092990 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] The conference of dialogue on information issues, in its session today, chaired by Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], chairman of the information committee and chairman of the conference, has approved [word indistinct] its recommendations and resolutions after deliberations which began on 19 February.

The recommendations included the need for the state to strive to provide more independence [word indistinct] to the mass media to enable them to perform their role effectively. These also included the need to support the national press, train employees, amend the journalists' union law, and provide legal and social protection to journalists.

The conference recommended the establishment of a complete complex for the national radio and television corporation and its rehabilitation.

The conference also recommended the need to draw up a SUDAN NEWS AGENCY law under the supervision of the minister of [words indistinct], together with the maintenance of its financial, administrative, and editorial independence. The conference also recommended the need to implement projects that are likely to promote performance [words indistinct].

The conference's recommendations covered the spheres of mass communication, regional information, printing, publication and distribution, and external information, to ensure their efficient performance.

UN 'Operation Lifeline' To Resume in April

EA0103123190 Khartoum SUNA in English 0912 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum Mar 1 (SUNA)—Relief and Displaced People Minister Peter Urad announced that the second phase of the UN sponsored Operation Lifeline Sudan, OLS, would be resumed next April.

Urad met here yesterday with the United Nations Assistant Secretary General for Political and Regional Cooperation Affairs, 'Abd-al-Rahim Farah and reviewed with him the second phase of OLS, activities of voluntary organizations in the country and the ongoing preparations for the convocation of the donors conference in Khartoum.

The meeting was attended by the commissioner of displaced people, the first undersecretary of the Relief Ministry and the resident UN assistance [as received] Secretary General and resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Michael Priestley.

PRC Foreign Minister Arrives for Official Talks

Holds Session With 'Aziz

JN0103151790 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] The first round of official talks between the Iraqi and PRC sides was held at the Foreign Ministry today. The Iraqi side was chaired by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the PRC side was chaired by Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

The two sides discussed relations between the two friendly countries and ways to promote them in all fields to serve their common interests and reinforce opportunities of peace, security, and stability in the region. The two sides reviewed the latest developments in the situation between Iraq and Iran and the efforts being made to implement Security Council Resolution 598 through effective direct negotiations between the two sides under the sponsorship of the UN secretary general to establish a comprehensive and lasting peace between Iraq and Iran and in the entire region. The Iraqi and PRC sides also discussed a number of international issues of common interest.

Discusses Ties With Hammadi

JN0103181790 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, March 1, INA—Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy premier, met here today Mr. Qian Qichen, China's foreign minister.

During the meeting they reviewed bilateral relations and means of developing them as well as Arab and international recent developments.

The meeting was attended by the Iraqi ambassador to China and the Chinese charge d'affairs in Baghdad.

Holds Second Session With 'Aziz

JN0103190490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—Official bilateral talks between Iraq and the PRC resumed here today. The Iraqi side was chaired by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the PRC side by Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

During the session, the two sides discussed the most important developments in the Middle East, particularly the Palestine question in light of the increasing immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territory and the Palestinian people's escalating intifadah against the Zionist occupation forces. The two sides also discussed the current international changes and completed their discussion of the topics dealt with in the first round of talks. They also reviewed the most important developments in the region. [passage omitted]

Meets With Ramadan

JN0203083090 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has received PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and his delegation.

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed the need for next month's meetings of the seventh session of the Iraqi-PRC economic and commercial cooperation committee to be comprehensive and diverse so that their results will be distinguished and correspond to the desire of the two friendly countries. Bilateral relations and horizons for their improvement were also discussed at the meeting, which was attended by the Iraqi ambassador to the PRC and the PRC charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Bulgarian Official Meets Ramadan, Reviews Ties

JN0103204190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2028 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Khristo Khristov, special adviser to the Bulgarian prime minister, and the accompanying delegation. Bilateral relations and prospects of their development were reviewed during the meeting. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the developing relations and affirmed an earnest desire that the coming stage will witness expanded cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad.

Signs Trade Cooperation Minutes

JN0203065790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2140 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—Iraq and Bulgaria signed here today joint minutes to enhance and augment the volume of trade exchanges between the two countries. The minutes include a number of articles organizing bilateral relations of economic, trade, scientific, and trade cooperation in the service of both countries' common interests.

The minutes were signed on the Iraqi side by Muhammad Mahdi Salih, trade minister and acting minister of finance, and on the Bulgarian side by Khristo Khristov, Bulgarian president's personal envoy and adviser to the Bulgarian premier.

Shamir Addresses Visiting Jewish American Group

TA0103175590 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 28 Feb 90

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to presidents of major American Jewish organizations at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Jerusalem on 28 February]

[Text] My good friend Seymour Reich, former Presidents, Malcolm Honlein, ladies and gentlemen,

This session of the Presidents' Conference is taking place in times of dramatic change in the world, whose impact is felt in our region and in the life of our people. It is a moment of great challenge and historic opportunity for us.

While we continue non-stop with our striving for peace, security and economic progress, the top of our priorities at this point is the great Aliyah from the Soviet Union and our constant endeavour to absorb the olim [immigrants] and integrate them successfully in the country. This is one of the most important developments in the life of our nation since the creation of the State in 1948.

Aliyah is the raison d'etre of Israel. We have dreamt of the time when Soviet Jews would come here in large numbers, and now that dream is becoming reality. They are arriving in record-breaking numbers. It is like a blessing from Heaven—a real miracle. My friends, all of us have struggled, worked and prayed for the opening of the gates of Soviet Russia to let our people go home. We owe a debt of appreciation and admiration to those who stood at the forefront of this gigantic effort; to those who spent years in prison for this cause; to the thousands who demonstrated and to the American leaders who pressed the Soviet government, again and again, until we achieved the long-awaited breakthrough. This great flood of olim is their reward.

By and large, these new olim are very good material—educated, industrious, motivated. They are willing to work and to contribute to the development of the country.

This new Aliyah is already having a very positive effect upon our population. Many volunteer to help in the absorption of the olim and to create a warm, friendly atmosphere for the newcomers. The business community is searching for ways to create job opportunities. We are expanding facilities to retrain and qualify professionals.

On the basis of the present numbers—and if we shall overcome the transport bottleneck—we estimate that we shall need to build between 25,000-35,000 housing units; 300 new classrooms in our school system and bigger ulpan [Hebrew language school] facilities for the thousands of adult students.

The cost for such an undertaking is estimated at more than one billion dollars for every hundred thousand olim. We are confident that World Jewry—and especially the American Jewish community—will rise to this exceptional occasion and help us ensure the successful absorption of this wave of Aliyah. Let us make every effort together in this great cause.

Ladies and gentlemen, to avoid any further misunderstanding, which some elements are trying to inject into the issue, let me state once again that it is not the policy of the Government of Israel to direct the olim to the areas of Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Nor are there special incentives for the few that do go there. But, if anyone expects me to say that we shall forbid any Jew from going to Judea, Samaria or elsewhere—I shall never do that. The olim have complete freedom of choice.

The Arabs are using every pretext in their desperate campaign to stop this Aliyah. Their attacks on us have again exposed a degree of hatred and rejection that we have not witnessed for many years. It is nothing new. From the beginning of the century, the essence of the Arab struggle against us was on the question of Jewish immigration. When we hear their statements today, it is as though we were back in the 20's and 30's and 40's, when their campaign of violence and political pressure was aimed at stopping the arrival of the Jewish immigrants. Then the British were in charge, and they sent several Royal Commissions to investigate the situation and they usually recommended that Jewish immigration be limited or stopped.

This process reached its nadir in 1939, when the British issued the notorious White Paper to restrict Jewish immigration to 15,000 a year for five years and then to stop it entirely. That was the time when Jews were fleeing from Nazi Europe and literally trying to save their lives!

Today we are sovereign in our own land, and we shall keep the gates of this country open for every Jew, under all conditions. We shall do everything in our power to bring them here and to integrate them successfully...and we will do it with your help.

My friends, it is necessary to repel this hysterical Arab campaign. We consider it an attack against the very raison d'etre of the Jewish State and a threat to peace in the region.

To my regret, Jordan has taken the lead in this campaign. Her leaders surely know that, as in the past, Israel maintains de facto peace with Jordan. We believe that is also in Jordan's interest. Any tension between us would damage this relationship.

We say to all the Arab countries—including Egypt—that anyone who fights against this Aliyah reveals himself as an enemy of Israel, for it is impossible not to understand that for Israel, Aliyah is the essence and substance of life. Anyone who damages this Aliyah cannot be regarded as a candidate for peace with us.

The miracle of this great exodus of our brethren from the Soviet Union should be brought to the knowledge and attention of the Jewish communities in the United

States. I am sure that the non-Jewish Americans are also impressed by Israel's great undertaking to absorb such a large immigration, and the same applies in Europe. It is the type of national effort that touches and stirs the American heart.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the revolutionary events in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have their impact on this part of the world. For three and a half decades, many countries in the so-called Third World, and especially in the Arab world, were beneficiaries of massive support—military, economic and political from the communist world. Israel was often perceived as being isolated, with the entire communist and non-aligned world opposing it and many in the west adopting a neutral stand. Arab regimes with aggressive designs on us, relied on automatic support from the east. All of this is undergoing a dramatic change. Some Arab leaders, including the PLO, are at a loss—even on the verge of panic—for having been deserted by an ally and in the face of this great wave of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. And, we have not yet seen the end of these traumatic changes and their impact on our situation.

Let me now turn to the peace process. The talks that Foreign Minister Moshe Arens had in Washington on Friday, were intended to pave the way for the next step which is the tri-lateral meeting of Foreign Ministers. This meeting will have the task to prepare the ground for the dialogue between Israel and a Palestinian Arab delegation on the modalities for elections in the areas.

If it were up to us, we would already have been on the way to implementation of our peace initiative. The delays are due only to constant attempts to steer the process away from its original path in order to introduce the PLO into the process in one form or another.

For example, our initiative seeks to achieve an accommodation between us and the Arab inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District. But, we are being pressed to agree to the participation of Palestinians who live outside this area as well as some who are in Jerusalem. We also believe that for the dialogue to be constructive it must proceed step-by-step, as envisaged in our initiative.

Our position on these issues and the underlying logic behind them must be crystal clear to everyone involved in this peace process. My friends, we shall not permit any action that would cast any doubt on the status of united Jerusalem as Israel's capital or that could undermine the position of our eternal capital.

In addition, we will not be a party to any attempt that would bring the PLO into the process through the back door. Beyond the fact that the PLO has not changed its ways one iota, we firmly believe that delivering the Arabs, who live together with us here, to the mercy of the PLO, would be irresponsible and inhuman. Even now, in spite of our military presence, the various PLO factions have massacred nearly 180 Arabs. Can you imagine what would happen if we were to withdraw our presence? There is little doubt that we would have a Beirut-like situation in our very midst.

Nevertheless, with all the pitfalls and obstacles, we are committed to our peace initiative, which as you know, adheres to the Camp David Accords, in letter and spirit. We are determined to see it through. We are convinced it is the only way to the kind of peace with which we can live while at the same time, ensuring the Palestinian Arabs very substantial progress toward self-government and peace.

We need to remind our friends that there were four parts to our initiative and that, in our view, the most important is the termination of the state of war by the 20 Arab countries. Concentrating only on the last point—elections in Judea, Samaria and Gaza—will not end the conflict. It might even expose us to bigger security dangers.

The Palestinian problem is not the main issue—it is only the tip of the iceberg. The main issue is the war that the Arab countries have been waging against Israel for 42 years. We dare never lose sight of our major security problems and therefore, have to proceed with caution, patience and perseverance.

I believe that all Jews should be involved, heart and soul, in the affairs of our country, but matters that are bound up with the security of this land, with its future relationship with its Arab neighbours, must be left to the democratically elected government and its representatives.

My friends, discussions such as you have had here this week are important, necessary and welcome and the free exchange of views between us is useful.

We are anxious for you to witness our situation at first hand, and to acquaint your constituencies so as to draw us closer together.

I have always advocated, struggled and prayed for unity—Jewish unity outside and unity of forces inside Israel. The need for unity today, to my mind, is even greater than most times in the past. We are facing a host of challenges and dangers. We dare not fail in our mission to receive our brethren from behind what was once the Iron Curtain, and ensure their successful absorption in Israel. We cannot lower our guard in the face of continuous violence and acts of terror perpetrated against our citizens.

Nor can we let up for a moment in our efforts toward achieving a true and lasting peace. These are no easy objectives. In history, few countries have had so much to do; have faced so many dangers and lived through such exciting times as we do today.

Nevertheless, I am totally convinced that we can overcome all the difficulties and achieve success, providing we are united, we maintain and strengthen our unity—as we did here in Jerusalem eleven months ago—and face

the future together, united in purpose and spirit. With God's help, we will succeed.

Shamir Rejects Baker Linking Aliyah, Settlements

TA0203052490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has rejected the condition presented by the U.S. secretary of state linking the aliyah of USSR Jews with the issue of settlements. The prime minister said that this condition is absolutely unnecessary, he does not accept it, and he regrets it. Mr. Shamir expressed the hope that the U.S. Administration and Secretary of State Baker will reconsider their stand. He noted that Israel will thoroughly discuss the issue with the U.S. Administration. Mr. Shamir also expressed the hope that Israel's friends in Congress realize that linking aliyah with settlements is unnecessary and harmful.

Shamir, Olmert Criticize Israeli Arabs' Remarks

TA0203130690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister said today that the remarks made by the Umm-al-Fahm mayor against immigration from the USSR constitute a non-stately act which affects the interests of Israel's Arab citizens. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Mr. Shamir made these remarks in a meeting with the head of the al-Tira local council, Tariq 'Abd-al-Khayl.

Minister Olmert, who is in charge of the Arab sector, also attended the meeting and said that such remarks only cause hostile reactions among the Arab population and upset the Jewish sector. The al-Tira council leader agreed with the two, saying that the Arab council heads should not mix municipal issues with political issues.

Peres Comments on Immigrants, Shamir Decision

TA0203054790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Speaking in Jerusalem last night, Vice Premier Shim'on Peres said it was not government policy to settle Soviet immigrants in the territories. He was asked by reporter Harley Braidman to react to the Baker statement:

[Begin Peres recording] We cannot forbid a person to settle wherever he wants, but basically we do not intend to build new settlements in the West Bank. In order to do so there is a need to have a consensus in the government, and my party does not suggest to do so. And then, by and large, the Russian immigrants anyway prefer to go to city lights. They come from urban surroundings, and I suggest not to engage in theoretical situations. [end recording]

The vice premier was also asked, with the approach of the forum of four meeting, what his message is to Prime Minister Shamir:

[Begin recording] [Peres] Time to make a decision. I mean, you can say yes and you can say no. There is no reason to postpone the decision. We know exactly the map, we know exactly the agenda, and we have to make our national choice.

[Braidman] Has the Labor Party given Mr. Shamir an ultimatum?

[Peres] The Labor Party is not in a state of war with anybody, but we feel that postponement is the worst of the different alternatives. Labor is urging to make a yes or no decision, and we feel that we can do it in a matter of days.

[Braidman] And if not? If this decision isn't made by Thursday, what will be?

[Peres] We have said that the life expectancy of the government will be parallel to the life expectancy of the peace process. [end recording]

Peres was speaking to reporters after an Israel Bonds 40th anniversary dinner. He called on the organization to raise $10 billion in the next 10 years to help absorb immigrants from the Soviet Union. He also urged immigrants to settle in the Negev and the Galilee, saying there was no need for them to move to the territories.

Rabin Said Willing To Grant Shamir More Time

TA0103203290 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] A senior source in the defense minister's office disclosed this evening that, if the prime minister needs more time with regard to the Cairo meeting, Yitzhaq Rabin will grant it to him. In a related development, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres demands that the United States present, as soon as possible, a document on the agreements reached so far with the Palestinians via Egypt so as to have a clear picture of what it is that the Inner Cabinet must decide on next week. The United States has not yet presented such a document, and the situation remains very unclear. Mr. Peres is currently addressing the plenum of the United Jewish Appeal at the Hilton Hotel in Jerusalem, and our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports from there:

[Goren] Two weeks are very flexible in our quarters, and they can also become two months, a senior source close to the defense minister told me tonight. If Yitzhaq Shamir needs more time, the source said, Yitzhaq Rabin will grant it to him. The meaning of this statement is very far-reaching because, if this is the case, the prime minister has thus been granted a long period of grace by the defense minister in total contravention of everything that has been reported so far. A senior aide in the prime minister's bureau this evening said: At the moment I do

not see Yitzhaq Shamir accepting the U.S. proposals or displaying any signs of flexibility.

Meanwhile, Shim'on Peres today asked the United States to present a clear working paper on the agreements it reached with Egypt and the Palestinians concerning the composition of the Palestinian delegation. The demand was raised following today's meeting of the Alignment ministers, who argue that it is not at all clear what it is that the Inner Cabinet must decide upon, since up until this very moment the United States has not yet produced a written document on the matter, and nobody actually knows what has been agreed on by Secretary Baker and Minister Arens. The Alignment also demands that it receive the minutes of the talk between the two to prevent a situation whereby the Inner Cabinet makes a decision, and later it transpires that this is not the decision the United States and Egypt had in mind, thus launching a new round of discussions and clarifications.

[Peres] I know nothing about what you were told at the defense minister's office. I know of the decision made in the meeting of the Alignment ministers, which was later endorsed by the Labor Party Bureau: It was decided that we would discuss and make a decision within two weeks. Two weeks is not an indefinite but a definite period of time, and we will honor that decision.

[Goren] How do you react to the possibility that there may be various interpretations as to what those two weeks mean?

[Peres] I object to that, I do not see any reason for it. The picture is clear, and decisions must be made. We have two major issues on our agenda: peace and immigration. I do not propose to put off immigration, just as I do not propose to put off the beginning of peace talks. There is no reason in the world to do that.

[Goren] In this same context: At this point, has Israel received a U.S. position paper explaining to us what it is that the Inner Cabinet must actually decide upon?

[Peres] As things stand now, I have not yet received any such paper, although I was promised that I would receive the minutes of the talks between Mr. Arens and Mr. Baker. I have not yet seen those minutes, and I do not know what they include. All I know I have learned indirectly. The U.S. ambassador today asked me for my assessment of the situation, and I replied: I have not yet seen the U.S. position paper or the Egyptian position. Obviously, we must decide not just on the content but also on the wording of the decision. I expect to see such a paper before the beginning of the Sabbath. Sunday afternoon we will meet, and we will hear the position of the Likud. After all, the only reason to put off a decision is the situation in the Likud. Who can assure us that the situation would change in two months? In the meantime, we would have wasted two months. What for? The decision that has to be made is clear: We must say either yes or no.

[Later in the program, Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew adds: "The defense minister says that only he, and nobody else among his associates, is authorized to make statements on the political issue. This comes in reaction to a report we broadcast earlier in the program whereby a senior source in Mr. Rabin's office told our political correspondent that two weeks is a flexible period of time which can also become two months. As to the question in point, the defense minister said that we should not let a long time pass by before a decision is made concerning the peace process."]

Netanyahu Remarks Not Coordinated With Arens

TA0203125590 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Mar 90 p 1

[By Daniyel Ben-Simon and Arye Arad]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The latest statements made by Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu have stunned senior political elements in Jerusalem. Netanyahu announced two days ago in the United States—and reiterated as much here in Israel yesterday—that the tripartite foreign ministers meeting should not be held before additional clarification sessions are held with the United States. [passage omitted]

Political sources were surprised by Netanyahu's onslaught against the United States, arguing that it was not coordinated with his boss, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. According to these elements, Netanyahu wished to torpedo the realistic possibility of a delegations' meeting in Cairo, toward which end he is even prepared to stoke up a confrontation with the United States.

DAVAR's political correspondent wishes to explain that since entering office as deputy foreign minister more than a year ago, Netanyahu has consistently been taking action to interfere with the budding dialogue between the U.S. Administration and the PLO. He has worked tirelessly to prove to the administration that the PLO has not mended its ways and remains the same: a terrorist organization which wishes to annihilate the State of Israel. Recently he discovered that his efforts were in vain, hence his disappointment and frustration with the United States.

Qatzav Sees 'Contradictions' in U.S. Stand

TA0103193990 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Interview with Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav by Yehezqel Ya'aqobi and Shlomo Ganor, in Jerusalem on 1 March—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ganor] Minister Qatzav, in the framework of the attempts to defend the prime minister, Knesset Member Beni Begin said last night that we need time to examine the developments and the situation. Can the Israeli Government afford to delay its

reply to the U.S. questions concerning the composition of the Palestinian delegation and the continuation of the political process?

[Qatzav] We have a true argument with the Arab countries. We have differences of opinion with the United States. We must place the central question on the table. The central question is addressed to the United States, the Arab countries, and the Alignment. Each of the three must answer the question: Yes or no to a Palestinian state. We can no longer play with the answers.

The Americans are holding a dialogue with the PLO on the one hand, while in his meeting with the prime minister, President Bush declared that he is against a Palestinian state. We must know whether the United States supports a Palestinian state. Because if it does, our whole attitude to the political issue will totally change. The Alignment Party: At the approval of the party's chairman, 'Ezer Weizman held contacts with the PLO. Does this mean that the Labor Party favors a Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria or not? The Arab states who try to compile a delegation while pressuring us must answer this question. If this is about forming a Palestinian state, we are facing an absolutely different scenario.

Eighty percent of the Israeli public, ninety percent of Knesset members and the Israeli Government—judging by declarations, at least, all its parts included—oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. All of this pressure only strengthens the status of the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat. One thing must be made clear: U.S. political pressure on Israel will, under no circumstances, lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. At most it could bring about a stronger PLO. It could help Yasir 'Arafat improve his status on the international arena. It can only lead to a single goal: The end of King Husayn's regime. The United States must consider this and make a choice between King Husayn or Yasir 'Arafat in Jordan. U.S. pressure on Israel will not lead to a Palestinian state. It could lead to the end of King Husayn's regime in Jordan. We would rather have Husayn remain in power in Jordan. If, however, Yasir 'Arafat takes over there—thus solving the Palestinian problem—Israel will not take steps to prevent this, although, strategically, this is not a desired situation for us.

[Ya'aqobi] Do you share Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu's concern over the U.S. position as he expressed it yesterday? Do you agree with him that we should sit with the United States and clarify the positions before the three foreign ministers hold their meeting concerning the future of the negotiations?

[Qatzav] I see contradictions in the U.S. policy. I mentioned earlier President Bush's remarks concerning his opposition to a Palestinian state. Still, they are maintaining a constant dialogue with the PLO in Tunis. The United States has promised us guarantees and assurances, the nature of which we still do not know. The term assurances has real meaning, this is not some declaration of intent.

[Ya'aqobi] Should the whole process stop and should we sit down with them and clarify the whole issue, as Mr. Netanyahu said?

[Ganor] In addition, do we still condition providing the Israeli answer with receiving the U.S. reply on the assurances we are asking?

[Qatzav] I am not holding a stopwatch in hand...

[Ganor, interrupting] The Americans are.

[Qatzav] The Americans as well should not time this. There is no rush. No dramatic development is expected. We are dealing with the very existence of the State of Israel. When dealing with our physical existence, we will not be hasty and make no decisions under pressure only because we want to satisfy the United States or the Arab states, or some Palestinian leaders. Whenever we deal with our physical existence, we make our decisions on our own, with all due respect for our friends around the world.

[Ya'aqobi] Minister Qatzav, what is your position concerning the participation of deportees and East Jerusalem residents in the Palestinian delegation? Has Prime Minister Shamir softened his position on this issue?

[Qatzav] We have a very clear goal, which is the political initiative that stems from and is based on the Camp David agreements. We believe that we should institute self-rule for the Palestinian Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. They should be given full autonomy in running their lives in all aspects, except for defense and foreign affairs.

[Ya'aqobi] Concerning the deportees and East Jerusalem Arabs...

[Qatzav, interrupting] Giving deportees and the Arabs of East Jerusalem the right to participate in the process would contradict the Israeli Government's political initiative. The Israeli Government discussed the issue twice, and on both occasions it made very clear resolutions: Any decision that entails the incorporation of deportees or Arab residents of East Jerusalem could only mean a contradiction of the government's resolutions. That is why we have no intention of stepping down from these limitations.

[Ganor] Are you already speaking of the resolution that will be made by the Likud ministers in their Saturday night meeting?

[Qatzav] I will make my position known at the Likud ministers meeting. We will discuss this issue, and I do not believe there will be any disagreements between the Likud ministers on this matter.

[Ganor] Mr. Qatzav, does the Likud as a political movement still adhere to the political initiative, or does it have second thoughts in view of the pressures applied, and the changes made in the original peace plan?

[Qatzav] My dear friends, there are no second thoughts, no withdrawal. I support the political initiative and want it. I hope it is accepted and want to advance it with all my might. I will not agree to see it twisted, and its goals and format changed. I will not agree to see the initiative turn into a fig leaf for the attainment of a Palestinian state. If there are delays today in the negotiations to advance the political initiative, they only result from the fact that we are being pressured to allow the PLO into the process, so that it could lead to a Palestinian state through the back door.

A Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza could only have one meaning: The destruction of the State of Israel. Even if I believe Yasir 'Arafat that he is willing to accept the existence of Israel, it is still impossible that the width of Israel be no more than 17 km. This is really dangerous, if not in this generation, then in the next. The time will come, historically speaking, when the Palestinian state will decide to initiate a war against Israel and initiate its destruction. We cannot allow this. This is the main reason for our opposition to a Palestinian state. That is why this is the major question. We are not trying to twist the political initiative. We cannot agree to a Palestinian state. We are for the political initiative. Attempts are made to address the political initiative as a means to fool us, trick us. We cannot agree to that.

[Ganor] To conclude this topic, what is the scenario you envision as realistic to advance that peace initiative and political moves?

[Qatzav] I believe that the issue is very simple, sincere, correct, practical, and very realistic. We want to elect a delegation from among the Palestinian Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. We want to discuss with them the modalities of the elections in which a leadership will be elected. This leadership will lead to self-rule, it will head the full autonomy—and, I stress, full autonomy—in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The Arabs in the Middle East, in that region that was under the British regime, will be divided into three parts: The Arabs under Israel's rule, with full rights; Arabs under full autonomy; and Palestinian Arabs who will reside in a country where 70 percent of the residents are Palestinians, namely Jordan. Unfortunately, history forced this reality on us. There is no other practical and just solution. We will allow the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to run their own life, under an elected leadership. This is the solution in which I believe, and as there are no alternatives, it should be accepted.

[Ganor] But you cannot set a timetable.

[Qatzav] Of course, it is possible. If we adhere to the full autonomy initiative, we can begin the process tomorrow morning. The problem is that others are trying to divert us from this major goal. [passage omitted]

PLO's Sha'th Outlines Stand on Intifadah, Peace

TA0203092190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ (HA'ARETZ supplement) in Hebrew 2 Mar 90 pp 4, 5, 7

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, the head of the PLO's political committee, by Yehoshu'a Me'iri; date and place not given]

[Text] [Me'iri] Would it be possible to say that Israel's longstanding stubborn refusal to accept various PLO ideas ultimately resulted in your moderating your demands of Israel?

[Sha'th] The idea of one state for two peoples was, to my mind, a good one, and one with which anyone who is a liberal and a democrat could identify or at least think about. Perhaps it was too progressive an idea. At any rate, it was adopted by the Palestinian Convention in 1971 and constituted the first sign that the PLO was taking its leave of old notions and embarking on a path that espouses the notion of life together. After Israel rejected the idea of a secular-democratic state altogether, we shifted to a demand for a partition into two states. We have gone a long way. To say that refusals swayed us, or to infer from this that additional refusals will make us bend even further, is at the present moment not constructive. Why not simply sit down and talk?

[Me'iri] Do you expect your organization to renounce terrorism and stop the intifadah, as a goodwill gesture?

[Sha'th] Clearly as long as no progress has been made toward an agreement, this will not happen. The longer we procrastinate, the more additional extremist elements will join the game. This situation legitimizes extremism on both sides.

[Me'iri] Do you mean the attack on the bus in Cairo?

[Sha'th] The PLO undertook on several occasions not to harm civilians. A resolution to that effect was included in the Cairo declaration of 1986, and another was repeated in the resolutions adopted by the PLO convention in 1988. We will not be involved in any operation against unarmed civilians. It must therefore be clear that an act like the attack on the bus to Cairo was, in our opinion, an evil deed and contradicts our undertaking. We condemned it. I think there are currently many members of the Palestinian movement who object to such operations and think they should be avoided. The problem is that the PLO has no police force to enforce its resolutions, we have no state, we are not permitted to bear arms—not even in Egypt. As the frustration grows, so does this become more complicated.

[Me'iri] What is your opinion of the continuing killing of so-called collaborators?

[Sha'th] War, as everyone knows, is a very tragic event, which people do not usually opt to experience—that is, unless their struggle to obtain rights through other measures fails. The Palestinians are staging an uprising right now; there is a very active opposition movement to the

Israeli occupation, at least 70,000 people have been injured. In such a state of affairs it is impossible to expect law and order to be honored. When you have your own country, with its laws, a police force, and a court system, you can also impose order. I think that great crimes are being committed under the aegis of the opposition and mistakes are being made. No one should take another's life without a court decision that the individual warrants such a penalty. This is definitely not the current state of affairs in the territories.

[Me'iri] Faysal al-Husayni told his associates that if the detainees are released, the deportees are allowed to return, and a climate of negotiations is created, he would be prepared to end the intifadah.

[Sha'th] Faysal al-Husayni is the leader of the intifadah. He is the leader of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and has a right to issue declarations and explain to people what the intifadah is all about and what should be done in the future. I presume that he talked only about terminating some of the acts of the intifadah, but not a total elimination of the campaign, because this cannot be done before progress is made in some direction. The intifadah at the moment is not just the sum total of the actions committed during the course of the struggle, but the body representing the Palestinian national movement in the occupied territories. There is also the matter of fostering a leadership, of building a social framework. The intifadah, at the present moment, is the people. It can therefore not cease until after a state has been established. The intifadah may decide what tactics to use to reach negotiations.

[Me'iri] But have negotiations not in fact started already?

[Sha'th] No. True negotiations will occur once both sides recognize each other and the fact that the boundaries for the negotiations are UN Resolutions 242 and 338, namely the exchange of land for peace. It is first necessary that these two principles be acknowledged. Only then will it be possible to make progress toward specific discussions on implementation.

[Me'iri] Still, Shamir has been meeting with Palestinian leaders from the territories.

[Sha'th] Shamir can call Faysal al-Husayni to his office tomorrow, as he did to al-Tarifi before and to many others. This will not make it negotiations. It will merely be a discussion between occupier and people living under occupation. Negotiations require two equal partners. The Government of Israel should determine, together with representatives of the Palestinian people and the PLO, what the modalities for the negotiations will be. It is impossible to conduct negotiations without that.

[Me'iri] And what are they?

[Sha'th] Trading land for peace and mutual recognition. You ask me what kind of agreement we will reach or what the guarantees for the future could be. All that should be discussed in an international conference. Some guarantees could be given only through international recognition and with international support.

[Me'iri] But the option of an international conference seems to have been struck off the agenda. You may have to make do with U.S. assurances.

[Sha'th] Assurances from the United States, which is a third party, are a type of international guarantee. But the United States is only one party, and at present it is important to include also the Soviets, the Europeans, and additional Arab countries. Israel, after all, desires peace not only with the Palestinians. I am convinced that no peace agreement will be complete or applicable without the approval of the Arab countries.

[Me'iri] Shamir thinks that it is necessary to start off with the Arab countries. He agrees with you on this matter.

[Sha'th] The Arab countries agreed in the Casablanca conference that the heart of the problem between the Arabs and the Israelis are the Palestinians, the Palestinian issue. The Arab countries have no other reason to engage in a confrontation with Israel. I believe that after that problem is resolved, general normalization will follow.

[Me'iri] Why, then, are you so persistently putting off the issue of the makeup of the delegation? Progress could have already been made!

[Sha'th] It is impossible to divide the Palestinians. Therefore, every Palestinian delegation must include people from the occupied territories and from abroad. The latter can be represented by the deportees. The local Palestinian group should also include Jerusalem residents, as the city is a very important part of the occupied territories. The population in Jerusalem is the main part of the population in the West Bank and its leaders are the most prominent of West Bank and Gaza leaders. Faysal al-Husayni, Sari Nusaybah, and others cannot be excluded from such a delegation.

[Me'iri] Then why is the PLO objecting to elections?

[Sha'th] The PLO is not objecting to elections, it simply wants assurances that these elections will be true, democratic, and free; elections in which everyone will be allowed to cast a ballot so that the returns could be honored. Obviously we would prefer elections after the withdrawal, but we are also prepared to have them even before, provided that their propriety can be guaranteed. This is an issue that is supposed to be raised at the Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo. We have already raised several suggestions, and all of them are included in the 10 points of the Egyptian plan. This plan mentions some of the suggestions to guarantee freedom of vote, and it also includes assurances to guarantee that the elections form part of a comprehensive peace process at

the end of which the Palestinians' right to self-determination is realized. We want a package deal. If the elections are the first stage of this package deal, then we at least want some guarantees on the content of this package.

[Me'iri] The thing is that Israel does not view Egypt as an objective country whose counsel can be heeded.

[Sha'th] President Mubarak selected 10 points out of the overall host of subjects discussed by the PLO and the United States; he did not automatically choose everything the PLO wanted.

[Me'iri] Can you give us an example?

[Sha'th] Egypt's 10 points do not, for instance, discuss Israeli withdrawal, nor do they mention clearly the Palestinians' self-determination. From our standpoint, many other things are also missing.

[Me'iri] You say that there are no negotiations, but this is an example of indirect negotiations between the two sides.

[Sha'th] Undoubtedly negotiations are being conducted through the United States and Egypt. One could also say that many official Israeli representatives currently engage, one way or another, in a dialogue with the PLO. Israeli leaders have even sent messages to 'Arafat. These leaders represent the entire spectrum of the political rainbow, and some come from the Likud and the Alignment.

[Me'iri] Who was it from the Likud?

[Sha'th] Shamir.

[Me'iri] He sent a message to 'Arafat?

[Sha'th] Yes, though not directly. Someone relayed it in his name.

[Me'iri] Who was the go-between?

[Sha'th] I am not at liberty to divulge names or dates, but I can assure you direct messages have been exchanged between Shamir and 'Arafat through a third party. To the best of my knowledge, they have never talked on the phone, but last year Shamir delivered a message to 'Arafat both through Palestinians and via another body.

[Me'iri] Many Palestinians who participate in the uprising contend that they have not relinquished the idea of returning to Yafo, Haifa, Lod, and so on.

[Sha'th] Here I find it necessary to clarify beyond any doubt: When we talk about a Palestinian state, we talk only about the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and Gaza. We realize that there are Palestinian Israelis who live in Yafo, Haifa, and other places, and that there may be Palestinians who will be permitted to reunite with their families in these places. But then they would be Israeli citizens.

[Me'iri] What kind of assurances could a Palestinian state provide Israel? Maybe a pledge not to set up an army?

[Sha'th] That is precisely why negotiations are necessary. Israel, after all, will not withdraw from the territories until it is obvious that the solution is acceptable to the two sides. To the point, it is very difficult to promise a state without an army. One cannot easily envision such a thing, because at least a minimal military force is necessary to be able to vouch for the assurances we mentioned before. The question is not whether there will be an army or not, but what kind of army it will be and under what circumstances it will operate.

[Me'iri] Would the PLO agree to allow the Israeli Army to maintain positions along the Jordan River as a security measure?

[Sha'th] In the situation that prevails now I cannot accept anything. All these issues are open to discussion. No one is asking Israel to accept anything before the principles of the package deal are accepted by both parties. After all, part of the problem is that neither of us trusts the other, still thinking in terms of war and not peace. You always think about where to deploy more troops. Such thoughts will never quell the intifadah.

[Me'iri] You have come a long way from the idea of a Greater Palestine to coexisting with and living side by side along Israel. Perhaps Sharon is right in stating that the weaker you get the more moderate you will become?

[Sha'th] We have not grown weaker, we have changed. People do not change out of weakness but out of a realistic view of things. Mr. Sharon maintains that if Israel is firm, we will change even more. This is every occupier's dangerous way of thinking. If you want a country like South Africa, you are in for a surprise the magnitude of which you cannot even begin to imagine. I do not wish to sound pessimistic, but people like Sharon have made quite a lot of wrong decisions, including Sabra and Shatila. Today even he admits that it was a mistaken reading of the map.

Does Israel want to enter into a new arms race in the region? Does it want to forfeit peace with Egypt? Is Israel prepared to take responsibility for a common disaster befalling both nations, the Israeli and the Palestinian? Such a catastrophe can be a possible outcome of continuing disregard for the fact that the Palestinians have already declared peace and readiness to negotiate. Nothing good could come out of the daily killings in the territories. The fire must be extinguished. In the end, both you and the Arab countries will have nuclear weapons, but I hope we make progress in the only path that can guarantee nonviolence.

[Me'iri] Why do you insist on representing the Palestinians in the territories? Why will you not allow them to conduct the negotiations themselves?

[Sha'th] Certain people want to bury their heads in the sand and make believe that the Palestinian people and their leaders do not exist. If a bold Israeli leader should rise and say: Let us end this charade and admit that the Palestinians have a leadership—the PLO—then we will meet face to face and not have to have prior conditions. I can guarantee that in these circumstances we will reach full peace within a year.

[Me'iri] Such recognition will also entail an automatic recognition of the Palestinians' right of return, will it not?

[Sha'th] No. This is an argument Shamir raises to halt the process. If he recognizes the Palestinian leadership, there will be negotiations on the right of return as well.

[Me'iri] What about the idea of a confederacy with Jordan?

[Sha'th] This is an idea which the Palestinians have accepted in principle, but it can only materialize if there is a Palestinian state, and only after the Israeli Army withdraws from the West Bank and Gaza. Meanwhile, however, and particularly now when Shamir talks about a large Israel to accommodate aliyah, all the Arab countries—Jordan included—feel threatened by Israel. Has Herut ever given up its aspiration for land along both banks of the Jordan River?

[Me'iri] Judging by what you have said, the PLO has recognized the Jewish people's right to self-determination, so why do you oppose immigration from the Soviet Union?

[Sha'th] The PLO has two clear positions. It is impossible to prevent Jews from leaving the USSR if they so desire. Nor is it possible to prevent them from reaching Israel, if they want. But the PLO wants to make sure that this is really a matter of free choice and that these people are not directed to the territories. These are the conditions. What happens at present is that the Soviet Jews do not have a truly free choice. They are forced to leave the USSR because of anti-Semitism and have no choice as to where to go. The Americans have limited their immigration to the United States, and the Soviets are not giving the departing Jews passports. Thus, almost every Jew who leaves must proceed to Israel.

We want an explicit pledge that no additional settlements will be set up in the West Bank and Gaza to settle the Soviet emigres. The West Bank and Gaza are what we conceded to accept as the Palestinian people's country, and these areas constitute a mere 22 percent of the entire Palestinian land. Besides, the one who turned the issue of Soviet emigration into a problem is none other than Mr. Shamir, who declared that it is necessary to have a large Israel to absorb the Jews from the USSR. In other words, he actually said that he is exploiting emigration from the USSR to conquer more Arab territory.

[Me'iri] What assurances do the Palestinians want?

[Sha'th] We want guarantees that Israel will not reconquer Palestine, that it will not take control over our cities and villages again, assurances that it will return our land and water. How can we build a normal country if 52 percent of our land and 88 percent of our water are not in our hands? If you want peace, you must give us a state that can live in peace, make sure we have our own water, our own agriculture, and our own industry.

[Me'iri] What is your outlook for near future political developments?

[Sha'th] It is hard to predict because the Israeli coalition has not yet decided to face reality. The path to peace is very clear: negotiations with the Palestinian people. I believe that the moment of truth will come soon. The Israeli Government must decide, and it if wants peace it will have to accept at least the minimal terms Baker raised in his plan for an Israeli-Palestinian meeting. We already have an agreement on the timetable. The other conditions are: open talks, a preliminary meeting and discussion of the overall peace process, and then the start of negotiations.

It is necessary to set up two delegations for the negotiations: one Israeli and the other Palestinian. There is no way that the Palestinian delegation can be determined by anyone but the PLO. It must include notables from the occupied territories and from the outside, the latter to be represented by the deportees. There is similarly no significance in the number of deportees on the delegation; the important thing is the principle. The prime minister of Israel talks about UN Resolutions 242 and 338, whereas in fact he does not accept them.

[Me'iri] What do you think needs to happen in Israel for peace to be attained?

[Sha'th] I believe that peace will prevail in three years. I think the two sides will realize that the price for confrontation is too dear and unnecessary. What is happening in Eastern Europe and South Africa precludes sustaining the phenomenon of conquest. I consequently believe that we shall witness great progress in three years. As to what will happen until then, that I cannot predict. People sometimes make foolish mistakes, for which others pay the price with their lives. Further mistakes merely entail more deaths, it is as simple as that.

[Me'iri] What mistakes, for example?

[Sha'th] I am waiting for a leadership in Israel to arise and reach correct decisions. The Palestinian leadership has already done so, forgoing the idea of a Greater Palestine. We have suffered and are now prepared to give in. The Israelis must replace their leadership with one which will be brave enough to make correct decisions.

[Me'iri] With which leaders would you like to negotiate?

[Sha'th] We are ready to sit down with every Israeli, including Shamir, if he wants. Shamir may have been isolated from politics for too long. Between 1947 and

1977 he stewed in this conflict, failed to undergo the necessary stages, and perhaps as a result is pulling the entire process backward. But even Shamir can change. I do not want to choose their leaders for them, just as I do not want the Israelis to elect our leadership, but if you ask me, I think Rabin—if he should so desire—can bring peace. The trouble is that he is too hesitant and still wants to preserve the coalition.

As for Shim'on Peres, he has contributed a great number of ideas for peace and talked profusely about the prior conditions for it, but he is still a minister in the coalition government and, in this constellation, is unable to lead any move. Peres, I think, has not shown sufficient courage or determination and does not offer a viable alternative to Shamir. The Weizman case is a very sad affair. He was a man who came out boldly against war, held indirect contacts with us, just like Peres and Rabin, and I believe Shamir used him to signal to the Americans that he will not talk to the PLO.

Firm Developing Rocket Engine for Satellites

TA0103144790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Israel Aircraft Industries is developing a rocket engine to launch 2,100-kg satellites. Our correspondent reports the engine is used in the interim phase to raise the satellite from a low orbit of 200 km above the earth to 36,000 km. The engine will be used to launch communications satellites to a permanent orbit in space. Neither the cost of developing the engine nor the duration of the project has been disclosed.

King Returns From Gulf; Badran Comments on Talks

JN0103184490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn returned to Amman from the United Arab Emirates [UAE] this afternoon at the conclusion of a tour that also took him to the State of Kuwait, the State of Bahrain, and the State of Qatar.

His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan held talks at the Amiri Court in Abu Dhabi this morning. The talks dealt with fraternal bilateral ties, various Arab issues, and the latest international developments. [passage omitted]

Later, His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan held a closed session that went on for some time at his highness' office at the Amiri Court.

His majesty the king was accorded an official sendoff ceremony. His Highness UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan led those seeing his majesty off at Abu Dhabi international airport. Those who saw his majesty off also included His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent; shaykhs; cabinet ministers; heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions; senior civic and military officials; the Jordanian ambassador in Abu Dhabi and embassy staff; and the Jordanian consul in Dubayy. [passage omitted]

His majesty was welcomed at the airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Senate president, the speaker of the House of Representatives, his highness the chief chamberlain, cabinet ministers, the king's private secretary, the chief of staff, the director of the Public Security Department, senior civic and military officials, and the Kuwaiti, Bahraini, Qatari, and UAE charges d'affaires to Jordan.

The prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the political adviser to his majesty the king, and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister returned with his majesty the king.

In a news statement at Amman airport upon the return of His Majesty King Husayn to the homeland, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said that the feeling they gained during the two meetings in Kuwait between his majesty the king and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, was indicative of the pressing and urgent need to hold an Arab summit, provided that careful and proper preparations be made to identify the issues to be discussed in order to ward off the threats to the Arab nation. He added that the question of activating Iraq-Iran peace efforts was also discussed. He went on to say that the sentiments harbored by fraternal Kuwait toward Jordan were based on understanding and optimism. He said that the effects of these sentiments will be felt in the near future.

On the meetings between His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, the prime minister said that the two leaders reviewed the overall Arab situation and Jewish emigration from the USSR and Eastern European states to occupied Palestine. He added that the Bahraini brothers had a genuine and responsible pan-Arab stand. He went on to say that the attitudes of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan were genuine pan-Arab views prompted by a total awareness of all the looming dangers surrounding the Arab nation. He said that the two leaders stressed the need to end the no-war, no-peace situation between Iraq and Iran so that the Arab nation's efforts could be directed toward joint efforts against the new Zionist onslaught represented by intensive settlement in the occupied Arab territories.

On the bilateral level, the two Arab leaders expressed their awareness and understanding of Jordan's pressing and necessary needs, the prime minister said. God willing, the results of this tour will appear soon, he added.

Al-Qasim on Jewish Emigration, Peace Process

JN0103120490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Mar 90 pp 1, 19

[Text] Doha, QNA—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has warned against the danger threatening the Arab nation's existence and future posed by the influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants into occupied Palestine and the determination of the leaders of the Israeli entity to settle them in the occupied Arab territories. He asserted that this danger is not limited to the Palestine question or the states neighboring occupied Palestine—Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon—its adverse effects will go beyond the geographic boundaries of these states and affect all Arab countries by threatening their national security and future.

The deputy prime minister warned that Israel's leaders indeed are working seriously to take advantage of this immigration to achieve their expansionist objectives by settling scores of thousands of these Jews in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon to pave the way for establishing what they call Eretz Yisra'el.

In statements yesterday to QNA and Qatari radio, Al-Qasim explained the immigration of these Jews is not a new idea, but always has been there since Israel's establishment, pursuing expansion at Arab expense. He pointed out that since the early 1960's, the West, and the United States in particular, began to pressure the Soviet Union to facilitate the immigration of Soviet and East European Jews to Israel. He added: By taking advantage of the recent political changes and transformations in the Eastern bloc, they managed with this pressure to achieve their goal of opening the door wide for the immigration of scores of thousands of Soviet Jews each year to Israel, and the danger became real and serious.

Al-Qasim, who was a member of the official delegation that accompanied His Majesty King Husayn on his visit to Qatar, said: Arabs are now facing a new stage of the Zionist threat, represented by the arrival of huge numbers of Jewish immigrants in occupied Palestine while, in the past, these immigrants went to the West and the United States. Additionally, the Israeli leaders are working hard to take advantage of this immigration to realize their expansionist dreams. The danger of this state of affairs will first be reflected on the citizens of the occupied Arab territories, and this will force them to flee. Israel will also subject them to economic hardship to force them to flee their country, and this will threaten the neighboring countries—Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon—and the entire Arab nation.

Asked about the possibility of convening an emergency Arab summit to discuss the new Zionist threat and draw up plans to face it, Al-Qasim explained that His majesty King Husayn has on more than one occasion called for such a summit. He said he believes not a single Arab country objects to, or has reservations about, convening the summit. The summit, however, needs serious preparation so its resolutions will rise to the level of the danger facing Arab national security, he added.

He also referred to the need for intensive efforts and contacts among Arab states to agree on the priorities to face the threat, because, he added, the challenges are great and require effective confrontation and because the Arab order is in jeopardy. He asserted Arab states will not allow any of them to become a new victim to Israel, as was the case before with Lebanon and Palestine.

Asked about the possibility of Jordan employing its good relations with both Syria and Iraq to achieve comprehensive reconciliation and unify the two countries' positions, Al-Qasim declared that, particularly after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, a basic factor in the Jordanian leadership's Arab policies is the need to build real Arab solidarity. He added: From this premise, and to prevent Israel from taking on a single Arab country at a time, Jordan has continued to warn against the current state of affairs in the region and to call for solidarity.

He pointed out His Majesty King Husayn has tried, and still tries, hard to find better conditions of solidarity among the Arab states, particularly between Iraq and Syria. He added: Hence, His Majesty King Husayn has made his efforts; meetings were conducted by Iraqi and Syrian leaders to come to some kind of a start toward building mutual trust. He asserted Jordanian efforts regarding this will continue until Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation and Arab solidarity are accomplished.

Regarding the situation in the Gulf and its connection with the general situation in the Middle East, Al-Qasim said: During the Iraq-Iran war, Israel tried to show the West it was the only party to defend its regional interests and its stands in face of the Soviet invasion threats. The situation now is different, however, with the end of the war and the political changes in the Soviet Union. This will make Israel lose its justifications with the West and fully convince the Western states that the Gulf can only be defended by the region's people and states.

He asserted that the Gulf will have significant importance in the foreseeable future in the international arena and in the Middle East conflict in view of the exposure of Israel's role and the increased international demand for oil.

Answering a question on the view of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] member states of the situation in the region following their fourth summit in Amman, Al-Qasim said: Despite the fact these states have a joint view and united and firm stands toward the situation in the region and are prepared to face the dangers resulting from Jewish immigration and the other issues that constitute a challenge to Arab national security, the issue calls for a higher degree of Arab solidarity and a more comprehensive and united Arab position.

In this respect, Al-Qasim said that the ACC leaders believe in the importance of joint Arab action to tackle any problems the Arab nation faces and to come up with a comprehensive Arab strategy in cooperation with all Arab groups. The reason for this is no Arab country, no single Arab group, will be able to assume the burdens of the confrontation alone.

On King Husayn's current Gulf tour and its objectives, Al-Qasim said the trip is part of the continuing series of visits among brothers. He said: The present tour, however, acquires special importance in view of world developments and their impact on the Arab nation. This compels Arab leaders to consult each other and adopt united stands on these issues, particularly on Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine. He added that his majesty's tour also is part of the efforts under way to discuss the possibility of convening an Arab summit.

On Jordan's opinion of the recent PLO peace offensive and the effects of this offensive on the Palestinian cause, Al-Qasim said the Palestinian peace offensive was based on a united Arab stand at the Casablanca and Algiers Arab summits which, adopting an Arab posture, called for peace based on Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 in exchange for ending the state of war and proceeding toward peace through an international conference.

Al-Qasim said: This is the appropriate solution that will lead to a state of peace. If ultimately such a state is not attained, then the region will always be prone to more instability.

Asked about reports some international quarters, particularly the United States, are playing with the content and meaning of UN Security Council Resolution No. 242, and how Jordan views this situation, Al-Qasim said if U.S. interpretations further confuse the issue of Resolution No. 242, contrary to what the United States repeatedly has averred to His Majesty King Husayn—that it

abides by the text and meaning of the resolution—then how can the United States be the sponsor of peace in a peace process joining Palestinians and Israel if it does not wish explicitly to say withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of Palestinian rights are the only equation that will lead to peace? The United States would be contradicting itself.

Al-Qasim said the U.S. ambiguity on a Middle East peace solution and its playing with Resolution No. 242 will have dire consequences on the cause. The Arab trust in the big powers' ability will erode, and the Arabs will become skeptical of their role and their possible effectiveness in the attainment of peace between Israel and the Arab countries.

AL-RA'Y on Proposed Israeli-Palestinian Talks

JN0203092090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
2 Mar 90 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The U.S.-Israeli Scenario"]

[Text] Whatever the importance of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, which has not yet begun and for which no date has been set, this dialogue is merely one attempt on a long, rough road along which the Palestinians hope to regain their occupied Palestinian territories and be able to exercise their rights on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative. It is no secret that this aim is not recognized by Israel. Moreover, Israel has reiterated its determination to fight and thwart it.

In light of this fact, if it is destined to occur, the anticipated dialogue will not exceed a realistic magnitude. This means that it will not demonstrate that the restoration of the usurped Palestinian rights is at hand. Neither will it be evidence that the dangers that threaten the Arabs have begun to recede. Consequently, the dialogue in itself will not be an alternative to the peace efforts underway in the Arab arena in order to engender a pan-Arab awakening that is able to deal with dangers and stand up to challenges. From this perspective, we voice our reservations about the U.S.-Israeli propaganda campaign, which expects the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to commence soon and which tries to portray this dialogue as the fruit of painstaking U.S. efforts and heavy Israeli sacrifices.

As we have said earlier, this is because the dialogue is merely an attempt, not a victory. The statement by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly in which he expressed optimism that the dialogue will begin soon is not the best news we have ever heard, and U.S. efforts in this context are not the true proof of credibility. For credibility is embodied in forcing the Israeli aggressors to save time and recognize the Palestinian people's rights to restore their usurped lands and exercise their rights on their national soil. And until now, neither Washington nor Tel Aviv has recognized this.

Proceeding from the above, the U.S.-Israeli scenario, which brushes aside the essence of the Palestine question and tries to bring the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue into focus, portraying it as the victory the Arabs and Palestinians have long awaited, is a scenario which lacks credibility and therefore must be viewed carefully. The heroes of the intifadah no doubt realize this fact, and will not allow the new U.S.-Israeli scenario to inject their glorious intifadah with any sedative illusions. It is also certain that all Arabs will proceed to reactivate the pan-Arab awakening and build a strong pan-Arab bastion, armed by an organized pan-Arab mechanism. The dangers that threaten the Arabs are increasing and worsening, while the U.S. conduct is still the same, if it has not become more extreme. Moreover, the ambitions contemplated by the Israeli aggressors have not changed. In fact, their appetite might now have been whetted to achieve these ambitions with the support of human resources they are receiving through the Jewish emigration, which is flooding occupied Palestine.

We state frankly that the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue will never be a cause for relaxation or abandonment of vigilance and caution.

Alleged Syrian-'Awn Cooperation Detailed

NC0103164490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Details of military, political, and logistical cooperation between General 'Awn and the Syrians were revealed today. Reports say that this cooperation is proceeding in three areas.

Concerning military cooperation, Lebanese Army Lieutenant Colonel 'Adnan Sha'ban from military intelligence is contacting Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [head of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon] at Gen. 'Awn's direct orders. These contacts aim at obtaining Syrian guarantees to keep the fronts calm after Gen. 'Awn withdrew the military units from these fronts and deployed them on the front lines against the Lebanese Forces. The reports add that on 2 February, Brig. Gen. Kan'an and Lt. Col. Sha'ban set the date for the meeting, which was followed by other meetings.

Concerning logistics, the reports say that the cooperation is between Gen. 'Awn on one side and As'ad Hardan, official in charge of defense in the Syrian Social Nationalist Party—the Emergency Wing, and Elie Hubayqah [former Lebanese Forces commander] on the other. This cooperation centers on having Hubayqah and Hardan provide Gen. 'Awn with what he needs, including fuel and some types of ammunition, through the Monte Verdi and al-Duwwar crossing points. The reports add that Hubayqah's and Hardan's condition for providing fuel and ammunition is to let Hardan have freedom of movement in upper al-Matn and to let Hubayqah have freedom of movement in lower al-Matn.

They also set another condition, namely that Gen. 'Awn start the Beirut battle. 'Awn approved within two days at a meeting between Colonel 'Amir Shihab, head of the Lebanese Army's military intelligence, and a Hubayqah group official named Joseph al-Asmar. Today's battle in Sinn al-Fil is in line with the Hardan and Hubayqah condition.

Concerning political cooperation, the reports say that Gen. 'Awn dispatched Engineer Dany Sham'un and Jubran Tuwayni to Btighrin where they met with officers from Syrian intelligence. The meeting was at Former Minister Michel al-Murr's house, and Al-Murr was present. The reports add that Gen. 'Awn asked his envoys to convey concessions to the Syrians in return for rapprochement with him. These concessions include: agreement on letting the Syrian Army stay in Lebanon without referring to this issue in the foreseeable future; agreement on practical cooperation on the ground and on intelligence issues; agreement on cooperation on foreign policy.

The reports add that the Syrians listened to the proposals of 'Awn's two envoys but gave no answer.

Al-Hirawi Statement Not Aimed at French Officials

NC0103204890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received French Ambassador to Lebanon Rene Ala this evening. They reviewed the current developments in Lebanon, particularly the situation in the eastern area.

Meanwhile, a source close to President al-Hirawi has made it clear that the statements the president made yesterday about France's position on the current events in East Beirut were aimed at some French personalities, opposition deputies, and media institutions. He said that they were not aimed at the official authorities, who have repeatedly declared their support for the Lebanese legitimate authority and for implementing the al-Ta'if agreement.

The French ambassador asked to meet with President al-Hirawi to question these statements. President al-Hirawi told the ambassador that he does not blame him or the French Government.

Shiite Official on French Hostages' Release

NC0103174490 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zayn, leader of the Shiite sect in western Africa who lives in Dakar, said that in May 1988 he participated in freeing the French hostages in Lebanon. He also disclosed that one of the conditions for releasing the hostages was that Chirac's government should pay $3 million.

The [London-based Arabic-language] AL-HAYAH cited Al-Zayn as saying: In 1988, I delivered the hostages to French emissaries at the Summerland Hotel [in Beirut]. Later I was supposed to go to Paris to guarantee that all the conditions for the hostages' release were met. One of these conditions was that France should pay $3 million.

Yesterday, former French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac denied that his government promised to pay any money in return for the hostages' release. Shaykh al-Zayn said that he never confronted [lam tahduth ayyu muwajahah baynahu wa bayna] Chirac. He added: It is unthinkable that Chirac could claim that he did not know me or hear about me.

Fighting in Eastern Area Intensifies

Lebanese Forces' Statement

NC0103133890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Statement issued by the Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Staff Command—read by announcer]

[Text] While contacts to achieve a firm cease-fire and open the roads continued and while Roger Dib and

George 'Udwan, envoys of the Lebanese Forces Commander in Chief Dr. Samir Ja'ja', were scheduled to meet with General 'Awn at 1200 today, the eastern area was surprised by several military actions by 'Awn's group this morning. Following are the most important of them:

1. The Nahr al-Kalb crossing was closed from the direction where 'Awn's group assembled early this morning. Obstacles and tires were placed in the direction of Dubbayah.
2. 'Awn's group opened sniper fire at cars using this crossing.
3. The areas of al-Ashrafiyah, Sinn al-Fil, and al-Dawrah were subjected to concentrated artillery fire since 0545. All other axes came under rocket and field artillery fire at the same time.
4. 'Awn's group attempted to advance on the Sinn al-Fil-al-Hayik-Salome-Mirna al-Shaluhi axis. The group continued its attempts until 0900 without making progress. The assailants suffered more than 50 casualties. They include Captain Edward 'Aqiqi and Lieutenant George Khamis.
5. Supported by tanks and under heavy artillery cover, 'Awn's group tried to advance toward Sin al-Fil area from all directions at 1000 but failed.
6. The 10th Brigade, an army commando company, a military police company, and the 81st Regiment participated in these operations. The attacked areas are still coming under artillery and machine gun fire.

Lebanese Forces Destroy 2 Tanks

NC0103160490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Despite the cease-fire agreement announced at 1330 today, military groups continue intermittent shelling, particularly on the front lines of al-Shaluhi, Salome, and al-Nab'a in Sinn al- Fil. A Lebanese Forces' military source categorically denied the false reports that General 'Awn's military groups have succeeded in occupying any position or making any advance on any fighting lines. [passage omitted]

We just received a report saying that the Lebanese Forces have inflicted heavy human and material losses on 'Awn's military ranks. These losses include the destruction of two M48 tanks belonging to the 84th Battalion. One was deployed in Hursh Thabit and the other in Tall al-Za'tar.

'Awn Forces Unit 'Besieged'

NC0103183490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] A Lebanese Forces security source this evening disclosed details of today's battles in Sinn al-Fil. He said that 'Awn's group launched a two-pronged offensive. The first attack was launched from the vicinity of the Milano bakery toward al-Sayyidah. The Lebanese Forces caught this attacking group in a pincers movement, inflicted heavy losses—including the destruction of three tanks—and forced the attackers to retreat. The second attack was on the Mirna-al-Shaluhi front. 'Awn's groups tried to advance on the al-Shuwaytir building toward the Mirna al-Shaluhi building. The Lebanese Forces surrounded the attackers and besieged one group in the al-Shuwaytir building. The besieging force advanced from three directions: the Palestinian school, al-Nab'a, and Mirna-al-Shaluhi.

Eighteen of 'Awn's soldiers are besieged in the al-Shuwaytir building. Five members of his group have died, three are wounded, and the group's commander has sustained grave injuries. Lebanese Forces' surveillance equipment monitored calls for relief from the besieged group three hours ago. They were requesting artillery fire from their command to cover their withdrawal. Negotiations are currently under way with the surrounded group to obtain their surrender.

The Lebanese Forces' source added that earlier, 'Awn's group distributed an advance report on the offensive's goals to the media. Some media carried this information before the offensive ended in failure. Thus, these media were deceived by the 'Awn group's lies.

'Butcher General' 'Awn Assailed

NC0203064690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Excerpts] 'Awn's groups have been shelling the residential areas in al-Ashrafiyah, al-Nab'ah, Sinn al-Fil, and al-Dawrah since morning. The al-Rum hospital has been hit.

General 'Awn has turned East Beirut into an incinerator where people suffer from pain and tragedy, the likes of which they have not suffered for 15 years. [passage omitted]

What is the butcher general doing? Why is he killing? Why is he destroying, displacing people, and pushing brother to kill his brother, mother, and sister. We ask the butcher general: Why are the children without water, electricity, and food? Why are houses being destroyed? Why are people being burned in their homes and on the streets? It is a massacre.

News agencies count 70 dead in yesterday's battles. The general is drunk from blood and is mad from the defeats he suffered for 13 hours yesterday.

'Awn Forces 'Advances' Noted

NC0203083890 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] It appears that the battle for control of Beirut has begun. There is no going back now after the Army's progress on the al-Nab'ah-Sinn al-Fil combat lines yesterday in besieging the Lebanese Forces headquarters in Al-Karantinah and taking control of the bridges leading to it.

A security source affirmed a short while ago that the Army has made advances in Sinn al-Fil, noting that the gunmen of the so-called Lebanese Forces had retreated from their forward positions in the area. The security sources also affirmed that the Army's attacks yesterday against the gunmen's positions allowed the Army to advance toward al-Siryan church and Mar Dumit and to occupy forward positions on the approaches to al-Ghazal street. The Army is thus besieging al-Nab'ah area from two sides. The Lebanese Army also advanced toward al-Sayyidah church in Sinn al-Fil and occupied the Phalangist Party center, Mar Dumit church, and the cemetery.

According to reports yesterday, one of the so-called Lebanese Forces officials was in the Phalangist Party center on al-Ghazal street and taken prisoner by the Army. However, the foreign news agencies, which carried the report, did not give his name.

Citing security sources, AFP has reported that the Lebanese Army has advanced in Sinn al-Fil and al-Nab'ah areas, and that the battle has drawn closer to the coastal road which leads to al-Karantinah. The agency cited other sources as saying that yesterday evening more than 5,000 shells were fired on the areas which witnessed the fiercest battles. AFP estimated that more than 70 fires broke out, the biggest being the one at the fuel depots in al-Dawrah area. The agency said that many of these fires continued blazing until today.

Sources of the Army command in al-Yarzah explained that yesterday's military operation was designed to isolate Sinn al-Fil from al-Nab'ah and isolate al-Nab'ah from al-Dawrah and thus to divide them. The first part of the operation was successful as the army penetrated the al-Nab'ah area as far as the mosque and penetrated Sinn al-Fil as far as al-Sayyidah church. The second stage will be to complete the control of this area. The sources noted that if the striking force of the so-called Lebanese Forces stationed in al-Nab'ah and al-Dawrah collapses, the general headquarters of the so-called Lebanese Forces in al-Karantinah will be considered fallen from the military viewpoint.

The information media of the so-called Lebanese Forces accused the Army of continuing to violate the cease-fire and tried to minimize the shock that took place yesterday on the al-Nab'ah-Sinn al-Fil lines.

The citizens spent the night in shelters because most areas came under intermittent shellfire. According to foreign news agencies, yesterday's fighting left 75 people dead and more than 150 others wounded. The agencies also reported that shells, which were fired at the rate of one every five seconds, also landed in residential neighborhoods in Kasrawan and al-Matn.

Resistance Attack Leaves 2 Israelis Dead

NC0103175890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Resistance fighters detonated an explosive device as an occupation forces' patrol was passing on the al-Naqurah road in the western sector in the south this morning. Two patrol members were killed, three were wounded, and a troop carrier was put out of commission.

Immediately after the attack, occupation forces raked the area with machine gun and artillery fire. The occupation forces reportedly have launched a campaign of arrest in al-Naqurah. In the eastern sector in the South, two Israeli helicopters flew over al-'Urqub area and the borders between Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories for more than one hour this morning.

Sfayr Threatens To Excommunicate Belligerents

NC0203100590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Appeal by Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr for a cease-fire in East Beirut issued on 1 March; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In repeated appeals we have warned against the resumption of armed battles, which destroy life in the eastern area and in Lebanon. These criminal acts, which include deliberate and wholesale murder, are subject to ecclesiastical punishments. After praying to God Almighty, whose commandments forbid murder and by the spiritual authority vested in us by God, we warn anyone who orders the opening of fire and those who obey such orders that they are liable to be punished by excommunication, which can be lifted only by the patriarch. These offenders will hence will be separated from the church, barred from taking communion, and denied church burial.

We call on all our belligerent sons to cease fire immediately. We remind them that they do not have the right to decide if people live or die. This right belongs only to God.

Economy Minister Views Domestic, Arab Issues

JN0203112790 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 28 Feb 90 p 2

[By Hanim 'Abd-al-'Aziz and Muhammad al-Qibahi]

[Text] Syrian Economy Minister Muhammad al-'Imadi and Dr. Yusri Mustafa, [Egyptian] economy minister, have approved the formation of a preparatory committee to draft an accord for comprehensive economic and trade cooperation.

The Syrian economy minister told AL-AHALI that there are other issues which should be discussed with the Egyptian officials. These are, specifically, cooperation in the fields of teaching, education, tourism, in addition to matters related to the economic field and the establishment up of joint companies.

I asked him: What are the facilities that Syria extends to Arab investors?

He said: We encourage investors with all means. As for Egypt, there are no Egyptian investors in Syria, although a large number of Syrian investors are present in Egypt. We consider the Arab homeland with its various countries as one homeland. So, the investment of Arab funds should be for the benefit of this homeland, whether in Syria, Egypt, or any other Arab country. The efforts we are making now are not related to the call to those Syrians investing their money in other Arab countries to return their capital to Syria. Our efforts are geared only at Syrians investing their funds in Western countries, the United States, Mexico, Brazil, and elsewhere. We are trying to get them to invest their funds inside the Arab homeland.

I asked: To what extent do drug trafficking and currency [not further identified] affect the Syrian economy?

The Syrian economy minister replied: This trade has been reduced greatly. I am about to say that we have succeeded in eliminating secret or invisible economy, which is a kind of economy that exists only when economic laws are not properly applied, or in the absence of a clear economic logic. We have directly tackled the issue of currency dealers, and passed Law 24, which imposes heavy penalties on those dealers. Then, a number of measures were taken to standardize the exchange rates and bring them closer to the prevailing price in the neighboring countries.

What is the penalty specified for those who deal with currency?

He said: No less than 15 years.

I asked: What is the latest concerning your talks with Turkey on the waters of joint rivers?

He said: There are technical committees, and we hope that they will continue with their work. We also hope problems will pass peacefully. We are maintaining good-neighborly relations with Turkey.

I asked: Do you have relations with the IMF?

He said: We have not applied for any loan from the IMF. Personally, I consider the terms imposed by the IMF on developing countries to be unsatisfactory.

I said: How can you manage your debt, which amounts to $30 billion?

He said: This figure is not correct. Our indebtedness does not exceed $4 billion.

I asked: How true are the annual reports carried by Western agencies affirming the deterioration of the economic situation in Syria?

He said: Actually, we have not heard such things. In fact, the Syrian economy has managed to achieve great successes. Our exports have increased and our imports have decreased. We achieved an unprecedented surplus amounting to 10.4 percent, while in 1988 there was a deficit amounting to 9 billion Syrian pounds.

I asked: Do the three Arab blocs help achieve a comprehensive Arab unity?

He said: We in Syria welcome economic groupings among Arab states as long as they contribute toward expediting the achievement of Arab unity. We support every effort that is in the interest of the Arab nation. I affirm that we will accept no alternative to unity, whether under the name of cooperation or blocs. We welcome these blocs if they are a step toward Arab unity.

I asked: How can the Arabs confront the European economic bloc?

He said: We cannot confront these blocs while we are divided among ourselves. The only response is unity so as to have one voice to address the European side, especially since we have lost very big chances during the oil boom period. There were available opportunities to convince the European side of adopting the Arab demands. We are now in an economic situation which differs completely from the seventies. We have lost numerous weapons which we used to have.

'Practical' Resistance to Immigration Urged

JN0103205290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Palestine broadcast from the "Spotlight" feature]

[Text] If the Zionists consider the immigration of more Jews to occupied Palestine the chance they have been praying for to save their Zionist plan from its present impasse, this means for the Arabs that the Zionist challenge to Arab existence has entered an extremely dangerous stage. Certainly, it is not enough for the Arabs to object and protest this new challenge. In fact, these objections and protests must take a practical political, economic, and resistance form.

In this respect, there must be a unified Arab position within which a joint Arab policy is specified and collective Arab measures are taken. Similarly, Arab parties, unions, and associations must play their role as part of comprehensive action to apply pressure to halt the Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and to stress the legitimate right of the Arabs to resist this immigration and the right of the Palestinian Arabs to resist it, because it constitutes an aggressive act against them.

Certainly, economic policies are of maximum importance in resisting this type of danger. Those who support and finance the immigration of Jews to Palestine must be made to feel the harm that this policy could cause to their economic interests in the Arab homeland; otherwise, so long as Arab objections do not affect their interests in a practical way, they will continue to ignore them.

Al-Asad Cited on Need for National Unity

JN0203072090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Mar 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its commentaries and political analyses, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH stresses the strategic principles reaffirmed by leader Al-Asad in his speech to the People's Assembly members.

Under the headline "To Fortify the March," AL-THAWRAH says: Syria, under President al-Asad, has become an important center from which sacrifice and achievements are made to achieve the masses' aspirations and hopes. This has made these masses—with their various organizations and professional sectors—rally around the revolution, embracing its firm positions and providing it with what it needs to continue to fulfill the national and pan-Arab tasks in a renewable series. Through these means, the leadership and the masses interact together in the same militant trench to face the challenges on all levels.

AL-THAWRAH refers to President al-Asad's emphasis on the need to continue building and sacrifice, and states: The revolution has not achieved its goals yet, and it needs further work and continued sacrifice and fortification, because fortifying the march in the normal and fabricated circumstances, protecting it, and providing it with the means to achieve strength and impregnability are considered an urgent, national, and pan-Arab task. There is an urgent need to mass the energies of all citizens of this country to serve the development of this country, just as leader Al-Asad has said.

In another commentary entitled "Our National Unity," AL-THAWRAH says: Unquestionably, the national unity of any country, regardless of its size or weight, is the secret of its strength. The more the people's national unity is embodied through cohesion among its forces, parties, and citizens and through agreement on the supreme objectives of the homeland, the stronger and more impregnable that country will get. At the same time that country will be able to face the challenges and achieve the objectives.

The experience of our national unity in Syria is full of signs of the soundness of this logic. The revolution, particularly after the Corrective Movement that was led by the militant president, Hafiz al-Asad, has marked the beginning of a new era of effective and positive national unity in the march of Syria's struggle and pan-Arab and progressive course. The National Progressive Front has constituted a framework regulating national unity as was demonstrated during October [1973] liberation war and the march of development and steadfastness.

This does not mean, however, we are perfect in our national unity. This is because national unity, which is an expression of the practice of democracy in the broadest forms, will remain, as President al-Asad has said, a constant, ceaseless process.

AL-BA'TH Warns Against 'Real Danger' of Zionism

JN0203081390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Mar 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH stresses the need to cling to rights and land, and warns against the growth of Zionist aggression. AL-BA'TH says: On the horizon of Middle East politics, there are signs that resemble those which preceded every Zionist aggression against the Arab nation since 1948. Yesterday, Shamir frankly stated that Israel has been established only to group the Jews of the world on a single territory. Also yesterday, the United States refused to annul the Zionist law that considers Jerusalem a united capital for the alien entity. And, yesterday, the U.S. Administration refused to cancel legislation preventing the entry of Jewish emigrants to the United States in order to force them to travel to occupied Palestine instead.

Al-BA'TH adds: The current Jewish immigration is not the end of the story. As Shamir has stated, the process of massing the Jews of the world began since the year of the tragedy [1948], and we saw how it escalated before each Israeli aggression.

AL-BA'TH concludes: We in Arab Syria will continue to repeat what our militant leader, Hafiz al-Asad, has affirmed: Zionism is the real danger, and we would prefer to fight for 100 years than abandon one inch of Arab territory.

Afghanistan

Clarification on Reported Expiry of AIG Tenure

BK0103094090 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 1 Mar 90 p 10

[Text] Peshawar—The MIDIA (Information Department of Afghan Interim Government) on Wednesday [28 February] issued following clarification on the statement of its Justice Minister Najiullah regarding expiry of the AIG's [Afghan Interim Government] tenure:

"A section of the press has reported a statement by Najiullah, who was assigned by Mr. Hekmatyar as the Minister of Justice in IIGA [expansion unknown], regarding the expiry of the term of IIGA. In response to a question by MIDIA's correspondent, the spokesman of the IIGA called the statement absurd and baseless. IIGA spokesman observed that first of all, a Minister of Justice does not have the authority to confirm or dissolve the Government. IIGA was established by the Consultative Council and only that Council or another Shura can decide about dissolution of the Government.

"Secondly, Mr. Najiullah does not even reflect the view of the Ministry of Justice—but only that of his party, i.e. Hezb-e Eslami. He did not consult the Administrative Council of the Ministry of Justice even about his statement nor the second person in charge of the Ministry—namely Ustad Sayyed Omer, who knew nothing about the statement.

"Thus, Mr. Najiullah's statement reflects only his personal and party view and does not have any legal consequences. IIGA will continue its functions until the proposed elected Shura meets and decides about the future of the Government".

Security Minister Receives Soviet Delegation

LD0103100390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Lieutenant General Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security, met today in his office with the deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and the chairman of the Soviet side of the Afghan-Soviet permanent commission for economic and technical cooperation.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that during the meeting the minister of state security talked about the successes of the ministry in discovering and neutralizing the conspiracies of the enemies of the peace of the people of Afghanistan, following the withdrawal of the limited units of the Soviet Union. Later, the guest delegation visited an exhibition of arms, documents, and evidence pointing to the widespread violations and interference by the extremists and their international supporters. The report adds that during the meeting, the leadership of the Ministry of State Security and USSR Ambassador to Afghanistan B. Pastukhov were also present.

Najibullah Grants Interview to Turkish TV

LD0103212990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 28, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) granted an interview to M.C. Batir, correspondent of the 1st channel of the Turkish T.V. in the Gul Khanah presidential palace today.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that the Afghan leader responded to the questions raised by the journalist regarding to the socio-military situation in the country, recent developments and peaceful measures adopted by the state of the RA for the ensurance of peace and security in the Afghan land.

Khowst, Nangarhar, Qandahar Security Situation

LD0203073890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 1, BAKHTAR—Contingents and detachments of the government Armed Forces stationed in the Khowst Grand District, with high combatting moral, shun attacks and interventions of the extremists. Pakistani military men and Saudi Wahhabis on the one hand and fortify their positions and strongholds against the enemies on the other [as received].

A BAKHTAR military correspondent reported that during the past 3 days sporadic enemies attacks on the east, south east, airport, Tanay and Esma'il Kheyl areas as well as residential quarters of Khowst city were silenced by the heavy artillery and air attacks of the government forces. Over 27 enemies were cleared from the battle scenes and quantities of their munitions, including a 23mm cannon, a mortar and 3 heavy machine-guns were destroyed.

According to another report the enemy took under heavy attacks Sorkh Rud, Behsud and Samar Kheyl areas, Nangarhar Province on that days. A servicemen was wounded. During the retaliatory attacks of the armed forces 75 enemies were killed and a vehicle loaded with armaments. A mortar and a rocket launcher of the extremists were destroyed.

As a result of the mopping up operations of the Armed Forces in the Zargar area, Qandahar Province, 11 shells of recoilless gun, 2 ground to ground rockets, 5 anti-tank mines and countless machinegun bullets were seized from the enemy during that interval.

Mopping-Up Operations in Paghman District

LD0203070990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 1, BAKHTAR—Organs of the Ministry of State Security conducted a mopping up operation in the suburbs of Paghman District, Kabul Province today.

BAKHTAR military correspondent reported that during the operations which were carried out to prevent terroristic and subversive activities of the extremists, supported by Pakistan, 2 ground to ground Sakr-20 and Sakr-30 rockets, 27 rocket launchers, 30 mortar shells and 5 kilogrammes of explosives, with the close cooperation of the residents of the area, were unearthed and seized.

The extremist were planning to launch the rockets on the residential quarters of Kabul and through the use of the explosives organise explosions in the densely populated corners of the capital.

India

Army Opens Fire on Muslim Protesters in Kashmir

'At Least' 5 Killed in Zakuria

BK0103132890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1300 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Srinagar, India, March 1 (AFP)—Indian army soldiers opened fire on Moslem demonstrators here Thursday [1 March], killing at least five and wounding about 40, as Moslem militants gunned down a Kashmir Government official. The soldiers started shooting when protesters shouting anti-Indian slogans hurled a petrol bomb at a military vehicle in the Zakuria area on Srinagar's outskirts, a Kashmir Government official said. He said five protestors were killed and 40 wounded in the army gunfire.

The incident came after Moslem militants spearheading a violent campaign for secession from India shot dead P.L. Handoo, assistant director of the Jammu and Kashmir State Information Department. Mr. Handoo was on his way to work when he was shot outside his home in Srinagar's Balgarden area by a lone gunman.

His murder came barely a fortnight after the killing of Lassa Kaul, director of the local station of India's government-owned television network. More than 120 people have died so far this year in violence linked to increasing Moslem unrest in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state.

15 Killed in Second Firing

BK0103160090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, 15 persons have been killed and nine seriously injured when security forces resorted to firing to disperse violent mobs today. According to an official spokesman, an Army convoy was subjected to heavy stone pelting at Zakuria, resulting in the firing to quell them. Eight persons were killed and five seriously injured in the incident.

The second firing incident took place when a bus carrying school children was attacked by a mob in Srinagar. The Army guards accompanying the bus opened fire to save the children. Two persons were killed on the spot, while five of the nine injured persons succumbed to the injuries in the hospital.

The state governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, has asked the corps commander based in Srinagar to investigate these incidents. As already reported, an assistant director of State Information Department, Mr. P.N. Handoo, was shot dead by the subversives in Srinagar this morning.

Curfew Imposed on Major Towns

BK0203033290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in major towns of the valley, including Srinagar City, from 0400 [2230 GMT] this morning as a precautionary measure. The Army and paramilitary forces are patrolling the streets of these towns.

32 Dead; Army Enforces Curfew

BK0203084090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0830 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Srinagar, India, March 2 (AFP)—Indian Army and paramilitary troops enforced an indefinite curfew in the troubled Kashmir valley Friday [2 March], a day after bloody clashes between anti-Indian Moslem demonstrators and security forces left 32 people dead.

Armed soldiers toured Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir State, in a show of force aimed at deterring Moslem protestors from taking to the streets. Armoured personnel carriers and jeeps mounted with light machine guns were cruising the deserted roads as residents stayed indoors, witnesses said.

Paramilitary troops were patrolling sensitive quarters of the city, the hub of Moslem militancy in India's only Moslem-majority state. All shops downed their shutters and public and private transport was off the roads.

Kashmir government officials said the situation was "under control" Friday, when the indefinite curfew was imposed at 4:00 a.m. (2230 GMT Thursday) here and in 21 other towns of the valley rocked by widespread Moslem unrest. The curfew appeared designed to prevent Moslems from gathering in large congregations Friday, when the faithful offer weekly prayers at mosques. The afternoon prayers have usually been followed by violent anti-Indian protests.

Thursday's violence was the worst flareup in Kashmir since January 20-21 when security troops opened fire on thousands of demonstrators chanting separatist slogans, killing about 50.

Ten companies of federal paramilitary troops, some 1,000 men, were despatched Thursday to reinforce thousands already deployed in the sensitive state bordering Pakistan.

The latest violence erupted when demonstrators demanding a U.N.-supervised plebiscite attacked a military carrier in Zakuria area on Srinagar's outskirts with a petrol bomb and rocks, prompting security forces to open fire. The Army said soldiers had fired in self-defence after the bomb attack blamed on militants among the demonstrators. Riot police also opened fire to break up similar protests in the Srinagar suburb of Rawalpur.

Some 32 people were killed in the two incidents, according to reliable sources. Indian newspapers said 29 people were killed and more than 100 injured.

Kashmir Governor Jag Mohan held a number of meetings with officials of paramilitary and intelligence agencies here Thursday and Friday to discuss how to control the unrest.

Thursday saw some of the largest anti-Indian protests in Srinagar, when an estimated half-a-million Kashmiri Moslems marched on the U.N. office here to demand a plebiscite. A plebiscite would decide whether the territory would stay with India, go to Pakistan or become independent. [passage omitted]

PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen To Arrive 21 Mar

BK0203033090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] The Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, will be arriving in New Delhi on the 21st of this month for talks with the external affairs minister, Mr. Gujral. He will have discussions with the Indian leaders for two days and is scheduled to leave on the 24th of this month. Bilateral issues are expected to figure during the talks. This was announced by a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi today.

Congress-I Leads in Maharashtra, Second in Bihar

BK0203041890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Excerpts] In the Maharashtra Assembly elections, the Congress-I has emerged as the single largest party, claiming 135 seats out of 264 results declared so far. The Shiv Sena has bagged 45, followed by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], 35; Janata Dal, 25; and PWP [Peasants Workers Party], eight. The CPI [Communist Party of India] and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] won two seats each, while Congress-S and RPI [Republican Party of India] one each. The remaining 10 seats have gone to independents. [passage omitted]

In Bihar, the Janata Dal is forging ahead, securing 33 seats out of 101 results declared so far. The Congress-I has 20; BJP, 13; and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha has bagged 11. The CPI candidates have won in 10 constituencies, while CPI-M has bagged two; IPF [Indian People's Front] and Janata-JP also two each, and the Jharkhand Party, one. Seven independent candidates have also been elected.

Three ministers have lost the elections. They are Mr. Mohammad Hussain Azad, Mr. Avadh Bihari Singh, and Mrs. Uma Pandey.

Repolling in 400 polling booths in the state has just begun in various constituencies. The Election Commission had ordered for repoll in 1,200 polling booths on complaints of poll violence and rigging. Repolling has already been completed in 700 polling booths in the last two days. [passage omitted]

3 Haryana Ministers, Senior Official Resign

BK0103131290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] In a major political development in Haryana, three ministers and the chief parliamentary secretary have resigned. They are the agriculture minister, Mr. Ranjit Singh, who is also the brother of the chief minister, Mr. Om Prakash Chautala; Irrigation and Power Minister Mr. Virendra Singh; the minister for forests, Mr. Raghubir Singh Kadian; and the chief parliamentary secretary, Mr. Rana Singh Mann.

AIR [All India Radio] Chandigarh correspondent understands that a senior Janata Dal leader and chairman of the Haryana cooperative sugar federation has also resigned.

V.P. Singh Discusses Kashmir, Disputed Temple

PM2802101690 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 15 Feb 90 pp 1, 21

[Text] New Delhi—Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh has emphasized that India does not want any military confrontation with any of its neighbors, especially Pakistan, referring to the Kashmir events.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RIYAD and 'UKAZ, Singh said that despite what is happening now, India will continue to develop relations with its neighbors.

The Indian prime minister described Saudi-Indian relations as good, saying: There is cooperation between the two countries in various fields, especially the economic field; we have common international interests, and cooperation between the two countries is being encouraged.

On the conditions of Muslims in India, Singh said: We have the largest Muslim minority in the world, and in the recent elections they played a special role, as they backed the present government in those elections. Measures will be taken for their development and to improve their conditions. They share all that India has with the other groups.

Regarding the Hindus' provocation of Muslims and their attempts to demolish a mosque in order to build a temple for them, the Indian prime minister said in his statement to AL-RIYAD and 'UKAZ: We are trying to resolve the problem between the two groups, and dialogue is the basis for understanding.

Concluding his statement, Singh said that India supports the Palestinian and Afghan causes, and its position on both is clear. The Indian Government, he said, extends all good wishes to the Kingdom's government and people. We hope that there will be further cooperation between the two countries and that new fields of cooperation will be opened.

Envoy Opposes Pakistani Raising of Kashmir Issue

BK0103105790 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] India has taken strong exception to Pakistan raising the Kashmir issue at the current session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva; it reminded Islamabad of the common commitment in the Simla agreement to work toward the normalization of relations through peaceful and bilateral means.

Mr. Noorni, leader of the Indian delegation, told the commission during the discussion that the right to self-determination cannot be applied to integral parts of an independent and sovereign state. He said if this fundamental principle is ignored or violated, territorial integration of many states will be under threat.

Mr. Noorni informed the UN Commission on Human Rights about the external help being provided to the antinational elements in Jammu and Kashmir by Pakistan.

Trade, Commerce Agreement With Bhutan Renewed

BK0203070490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] India and Bhutan have renewed agreement on trade and commerce for another five years. Under the agreement, India and Bhutan will continue to have free trading arrangements. A major modification in the new agreement is opening of trade avenues for private Bhutanese traders.

The agreement was signed by the commerce and tourism minister, Mr. Arun Nehru, in the Bhutanese capital at Thimpu today.

PATRIOT on 'Repression' of Nepalese Movement

BK0103112190 Delhi PATRIOT in English 22 Feb 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Repressive Nepal Durbar"]

[Text] The violent repression of the movement for democracy in Nepal by the Royal police and military can cause nothing but deep concern and anguish in India, and a pain shared by freedom loving people throughout the world who have celebrated in recent days the release of Nelson Mandela in Africa and the sweep of liberalisation in East Europe. So far 21 people have been killed and scores injured in police firings on processions in Kathmandu and other towns. Those arrested number thousands, including Mr Ganesh Man Singh, who is a respected political personality in Nepal and unanimously chosen supreme leader of the democracy movement begun by the Nepal Congress and supported by the seven-party Left front. Thousands of others, particularly left-wing students, have gone underground to continue the struggle. Many regard this phase as the worst repression in thirty years, since the present King's grandfather in 1961 foisted his partyless panchayat system. The students' agitation of 1979 was crushed, and the monarchy pushed through a referendum favouring partyless 'democracy'. The satyagraha [passive resistance movement] of 1985 was called off when a series of bomb blasts rocked Nepal and the protesters feared that a conspiracy had been hatched to discredit them. The successful conference of the Nepal Congress last month was attended by senior leaders of almost all major Indian political parties. The conference lucidly spelt out the agenda—to get King Birendra to accept the reality that the world's second poorest nation cannot move forward without democracy. The King was advised to accept a constitutional role, and allow a national government to supervise the transition to a multi-party democracy. The Nepali Congress does not want to abolish monarchy, fearing that it would create a dangerous vacuum. The King's reply was to pre-empt the two-day action planned by the movement on February 19 and 20 by the arrest of top leaders. It should be clear to the Kathmandu durbar that restored democracy alone can ensure peace, economic development and stability to Nepal.

2 Die, 6 Injured in Air Force Plane Crash

BK0103162090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1607 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] New Delhi, March 1 (AFP)—At least two people were killed and six injured when an Indian Air Force plane crashed in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh Thursday [1 March], the Press Trust of India (PTI) said. The plane, the type of which was not known immediately, crashed outside Uttar Pradesh's Paratpur Village, PTI said.

Two bodies and six injured people were brought to a nearby hospital, PTI said. One of the victims was in serious condition.

Iran

Yazdi Charges CIA, Mosad 'Disinformation Campaign'

NC0203140490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Feb 90 pp 1, 7

[Report by the senior staff]

[Text] Tehran—A leading 'alim [scholar] of Iran said yesterday that the Islamic Republic opposes hostage taking, terrorism and hijacking and also underlined the fact that Tehran recognizes international laws and

opposes interference into the internal affairs of others or violations of their national sovereignty.

Judiciary Head Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi in an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES said, "Iran opposes any form of hostage taking, terrorism and air piracy because these are contrary to Islamic and humanitarian principles."

Commenting on the recently aired report by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Mosad which said that the Islamic Republic and Hizballah of Lebanon were going to embark on terrorist activities in the West on the eve of the 11th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution starting Feb. 1 to 11, the ayatollah said, "It's nothing but a disinformation campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran."

"These rumors were aired by the CIA and Mosad and the Islamic Republic of Iran promptly denied the false stories firmly," Ayatollah Yazdi said, noting, "The CIA and the Mosad may go ahead and plant bombs here and there in any European country in pursuit of their evil aims."

"The European countries," he warned, should be watchful of the activities of the Israeli intelligence service and its related terrorist groups."

"Well, you know we have enough evidence of the U.S. and Israeli involvement in terrorist activities inside Iran during the last 10 years," he said and recalled how a number of top political religious personalities of the Islamic Republic had sacrificed their lives because of such terrorism.

Ayatollah Yazdi, 58, was appointed head of the Judiciary by Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i last August.

A former parliamentarian, Ayatollah Yazdi said that Iran is committed to recognize international laws and regulations and severely opposed any interference in the domestic affairs of countries and violation of their national sovereignty.

"Although in our opinion laws made by human minds do not have the necessary power to provide for all interests of human beings, yet special respect should be paid to existing regulations in international relations because they manage all political, economic, social and cultural relations and transactions relating to human life at present," he said.

In answer to a question Ayatollah Yazdi said, "Commitment of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Islamic principles is not tantamount to violation of international laws and regulations and interference in domestic affairs of any country or the violation of its national sovereignty."

He said that our constitution "negates both domination over others and being dominated and the meaning of export of revolution is export of Islamic culture and revolution, which is the natural right of all human beings."

Leaders, Officials Speak on Guards Corps Day

Khamene'i Addresses Guards Corps

LD0103153890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1101 GMT 1 Mar 90

["Guards Day" address to the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps by Ayatollah Khamene'i—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted] The path which we have trodden behind the imam in the past 10 to 11 years was not a path which could have been followed in a natural way by a nation, by a leader, or by any one person without the support, help, and grace of God. We have overcome many obstacles, we have left behind many ups and downs, thanks to the imam's leadership, and this would not have been achieved without divine guidance. [passage omitted]

God's guidance always follows personal contact and association with God, as we have seen in the past 10 years and as you sincere, pure-hearted young people have demonstrated in various fronts and have experienced its results. This was also the lesson of our imam. [passage omitted]

Today and for ever our nation requires an iron determination and firm steps along this hard and bumpy road, along the path of the greatness of the Islamic ummah and the exaltation of the word of Islam and the Muslims, along the path of the revival of Islamic values, along the path of the true implementation of social justice and support for the oppressed and the weak—for which the world has always chanted slogans but which has never been implemented.

Today, billions of people throughout the world are struggling under the heavy pressure of tyranny and injustice of big powers. They require a symbol, they need a model, and you wish to provide that model. This is a very heavy responsibility. This is a very major task. Of course, this is something which is practical. This path can be trodden, and up to today we have trodden this path, and we shall successfully follow this path to the very last stage, and let the enemies go blind with rage. [shouts of "God is great" and slogans] With God's grace, we shall follow this path, and we shall show the path and the goal to the nations, the oppressed and those who are searching for the truth. However, this is a heavy burden. This is a major task. It requires preparedness. It requires dependence upon God and reliance upon God. It requires contact with God and love for divine values and a mystic and spiritual association with the almighty, the all-blessed.

Today you see what the enemies of humanity, namely world arrogance—headed by the satanic and demonic

American power, and below it all the satanic and demonic powers—are doing to human values. You see how they are leading humanity toward decadence and how they are mocking and ridiculing all spiritual values. This is their enmity. Today you see that as the system of the Islamic Republic has raised on high the banner of spirituality, as it is following the path of Islam and is endeavoring for the sake of Islam and for the sake of Islamic values, it is the object of all their hostility and enmity. At times one is amazed at the extent of their animosity toward Islam and spirituality. You can see what they are doing. How much money they are spending so that with their propaganda, their false propaganda, their poisonous propaganda, their slanderous propaganda they can portray the Islamic Republic with an ugly face in eyes of the people througout the world!

Why are they spending so much money? Why do they feel such a need to engage in propaganda against the system of the Islamic Republic? They do so, because without their evil propaganda the system of the Islamic Republic would be very attractive to various nations. I have to stress that even despite all this evil propaganda the Islamic Republic is still most attractive to many nations.

The anger of world arrogance, especially the United States, the United States in particular, is due to the fact that they see that througout the Islamic world Islamic awakening is increasing day by day. They had hoped that with the passing of time the slogans of the Islamic Republic would grow old and ineffective in the world, but this was not the case. They had hoped that with the passing of the imam, with the demise of the imam who was a lantern to his devotees throughout the world, Islamic slogans would be forgotten and neglected, but this was not the case. Today the imam is no longer with us, but the memories of the imam, the imam's line, the imam's slogans, the imam's goals are daily becoming brighter and more attractive in the world. The nations are aroused by the memory of the imam and when reminded of the remarks of the imam, and they are making the situation more bleak for the arrogant powers and for the reactionary governments.

As we have repeatedly said, this pure Islamic seed was sown with those divine and spiritual hands in the land of human nature. The imam safeguarded it for 10 years. This can no longer be eradicated.

Do you not see how your lord uses parables? The example of a blessed word is like a blessed tree, whose roots are firm in the ground and whose branches are raised high in the sky. It will produce its fruits at each moment, as decreed by its lord. [Koranic verse] This is the case today, and this is what leads to the anger of the enemies. They hoped that this torch would gradually grow dim in the Islamic Republic and be extinguished, not that each day its flame would blaze still more throughout the world. Today they see that the light of human values and jihad against the satans and the great Satan, and movement toward divine and Islamic values is growing brighter day by day, both inside and outside the country. This great and proud movement on 22 Bahman [11 February] of this year tormented the enemies. It sizzled them. Glad tidings to our great nation who with this vigilant act succeeded in bringing pain and rage to the enemies!

Say perish in your rage! [Koranic verse] This rage in the hearts of our enemies was due to the revolutionary action of our nation. This nation is an aware nation. The movement which has been placed on the shoulders of such a nation, this movement will not end.

Ever since 22 Bahman the arrogant media have been busily seeing if they can in some way destroy the effect of this great movement, but of course they will not be able to do so. Today the propaganda of foreign radios in its highest capacity is making every effort against the Islamic Republic. This was started after 22 Bahman. Of course, during these 11 years we remember many junctures when the all-encompassing onslaught of foreign radios and foreign news agencies, filled with rage, envy, and hostility were directed against us. Well, it is clear that these news agencies and these radios often come from a single course. All of them are tools in the hands of the capitalists, the Zionists, and the leaders of today's world arrogance and colonialism. At each juncture when they have found it necessary they have engaged in a major propaganda war against the Islamic Republic—especially the last few days and the past couple of weeks.

After 22 Bahman, for a day or two they were in a daze due to the great 22 Bahman movement and were not capable of analyzing it; but a couple of days after 22 Bahman a massive wave of propaganda started against the Islamic Republic, and they did as much as they could. This is something which the Iranian nation should be aware of. They did everything from spreading rumors, to propagating falsehood, to incitement, to exaggerating the weaknesses, to the creation of an atmosphere of doubt and despair about the future—exactly those things which reassure the enemies. Whatever they hoped might exist in our society and which does not exist, through their propaganda they tried to insinuate that it does exist. They would like to see that there are differences. Thank God, there are no profound basic differences in our society. Whatever there is, is superficial. Whatever there is has no significance and is not harmful to that extent. However, they try to pretend that there are profound differences among the officials of the Islamic Republic, that there is a power struggle. They falsely ascribe to us and without any basis what really exists among themselves, what exists in the world of arrogance.

Among our people there is hope for the future. Their hearts see a bright future. For 11 years we endured the most difficult part of this road. Why should we not be hopeful about the future? This is why our people are hopeful. They have hope in the government, they have hope in the plans, they have hope in the Majles, they have hope in the judiciary, they have hope in the security

and military forces, they feel strong and they know that in the future they will be even stronger.

This is the feeling of our people and it is a proper feeling; our people should be hopeful. The path that we are following is a path of hope because it is the path of God, it is the path of natural laws. The enemies are against truth and should be filled with despair about the future. We are moving on the basis of divine and natural laws. These natural laws are the same laws which neutralized all the efforts which have been made for hundreds of years. For more than two centuries the efforts of the enemies of Islam and religion were concentrated on driving religion off of the stage, but these divine laws neutralized all those efforts and today religion is again a major force in the world.

A religious government was born in this sensitive part of the world. Today, religion is an issue to be reckoned with in the world. The countries which were kept away from religion for 70 or 80 years, are now engaged in religious reconstruction. These are those very same natural laws, these are those very same divine laws.

Did the Zionists want it to happen that way? Did the ringleaders of materialistic currents want this to happen? Those who drove the world toward permissiveness, those who strove to drive spirituality to oblivion, eliminating it from the lives of the people—did they want that to happen? Did they want to see the revival of religion? Did they want religious rights, especially Islamic rites, to be revived? Yet, as you see, all that was achieved. It is due to divine laws that, despite the existence of the enemies of God and the enemies of Islam and the enemies of religion, faith manages to open up its own path. We are moving in harmony with these laws, so why should we not be optimistic? [passage omitted]

So, why shouldn't the Iranian nation be full of hope? Of course, the enemy wants the Iranian nation to lose hope [so] they use propaganda to spread a mood of hopelessness. They resort to circulating rumors and lies. God knows how many untrue rumors have been circulated by the enemy among our society these days. I am continuously briefed on these rumors; I am aware of all the rumors; I even know about some specific rumors which have been circulated in particular towns. These rumors are spread by the enemy—through broadcasting stations and through a handful of sold-out and treacherous elements who have turned their backs on God and their own people. [passage omitted]

Our path is the kind of Islam which makes deprived peoples happy; it is not Islam in name only—the kind of Islam which is in reality in the service of the enemies of Islam from beginning to end. That kind of Islam is not acceptable to us as being Islam—it is that very American Islam which our wise late imam so aptly used to talk about on every opportune occasion. Pure Islam is the kind of Islam of which individuals like Abu Jahls [an enemy of this prophet during his lifetime] must be afraid. If we have a kind of Islam of which Abu Jahls and Abu Sofyans are not afraid, then we must doubt whether it is true Islam at all. If they are not hostile to it, then it is not real Islam. [passage omitted]

That is our path—the path of the kind of Islam which the imam charted and talked about for 10 yeas, in addition to his remarks about it during the struggle and prior to that. During the past 10 years the imam succeeded in throwing light on Islam and clarifying it for us, on every occasion and during the current of life and in confrontation with events. That is our path—a path which is assured of success and full of hope. There is hope; but also it needs that we should make efforts as well. And making efforts means having faith in God and purifying our souls and distancing ourselves from sinfulness. Also we must preserve your unanimity of word; you must keep away from discord in all its forms. [passage omitted]

Of course, the Armed Forces and the dear Revolution Guards and all the armed forces whether military or security—the army, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps [IRGC], committees, police, gendarmerie, and the proud forces of the popular mobilization—must maintain their readiness to defend the achievements of the revolution militarily. This is our recommendation which we often have repeated. But it is not a simple recommendation; it is an order. It is your duty. All responsible officials of the Armed Forces must listen to it as a duty and then implement it seriously. Readiness must include combat readiness as well as readiness for training and organizing. It must embrace discipline, support, and morality and everything else. In the case of the IRGC in addition to the fact that the three arms of the IRGC are duty bound to perform their regular duties, the Ground Forces of the IRGC must in particular play a special role. The Ground Forces today have a twofold importance. There duties are clear and important, as we drew up for the IRGC and the Army. The Ground Forces of the IRGC must achieve yet more readiness in such fields as organization, education, and especially in being able to be present in areas where their presence would be needed. Because of these efforts which you make, God will shower you with his Blessings. May God's blessings be upon all the faithful. May God include us all in the prayers offered by the immaculate spirit of our dear imam.

Ahmad Khomeyni's Address

LD0103181390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 1 March 90

[Text] On the occasion of the third of Sha'ban [1 March], anniversary birthday of His Holiness Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, and the Guards Day, the gathering ceremonies of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] commanders and the Islamic Revolution Committees, entitled renewal of bonds with the imam, were convened with the participation of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni beside the

immaculate shrine of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] [video shows Ahmad Khomeyni standing in a line of Guards and officials flanked by Nuri, interior minister, and Reza'i, IRGC commander] On the occasion the third of Sha'ban, the auspicious anniversary birthday of His Holiness Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, and the Guards Day, a joint gathering of the IRGC commanders and the Islamic revolution committees entitled renewal of bonds with the imam, was held beside the immaculate shrine of the founder of the Islamic revolution.

In these ceremonies, Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri, interior minister, the commander in chief of the IRGC, together with the commanders of the four forces, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Committees, deputy representative of the vice regent of the supreme jurisconsult in the IRGC and a group of commanders and officials and various strata of people were present. Interior Minister Nuri, in his remarks, pointed to the self-sacrifice of the guards for the safeguard of the Islamic revolution's achievements during the past 11 years, saying: Today even if the imam is not among us, his soul continues [to guide us along] his path. You dear ones are his real followers.

Then Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, in his remarks, congratulating the occasion of the auspicious anniversary birthday of His Holiness Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, saying: Today our nation should preserve its unity against the conspiracies of the world arrogance and enemies of Islam. You dear ones who today carry the flag of justice should resist those conspiracies and should not have any fear in that regard. He added, if today the world's eyes are turned toward our revolution, this is because His Eminence Ayotallah Khamene'i is defending the same ideals that the dear imam defended. We are proud of the fact that we are standing full force against political, propaganda, and military conspiracies of arrogance.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni added: Today our people see that their revolutionary children are living beside them, in the severest of conditions that do not undermine their principles. Today we should prepare ourselves for a long-term struggle. If we are strong on the borders, we can implement the [UN] resolution better. If it is not so then enemies will force their intentions upon us.

IRGC Commander Reza'i Interviewed

LD0103132590

[Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0730 GMT on 1 March carries a 40-minute "Islamic Revolution Guards Corps" program marking Guards Corps Day and the birth anniversary of Imam Husayn. The program consists of extracts from speeches of martyr Mahallati and of Imam Khomeyni in praise of the Guards Corps, music, poetry readings, and a 10-minute recorded interview with Guards Corps Commander Mohsen Reza'i.

Reza'i praises the Guards Corps and talks in broad terms about the role of the Guards Corps in foiling the plots of domestic and foreign enemies of Islam in the early days of the revolution, and right through the Iran-Iraq war to the present. He stresses how important and effective the Guards Corps' role has been in sustaining the revolution and the revolutionary process, and how this was largely was due to the great initiative of Imam Khomeyni, according to whom: "The Guards Corps secured the revolution."

On the question of the increased organizational capabilities of the Guards Corps, enabling it to carry out its various duties and responsibilities, Reza'i says:

"The dear leader of the revolution has the same attitude toward the Guards Corps as that of our eminent founder of the Islamic revolution, the gracious Imam Khomeyni. Indeed, our eminent leader believes that the role of the guards has become more important than before, and that the historical state of the revolution is such that the Guards Corps must continue to fulfil its responsibility and role in defending the revolution. For this very reason, his eminence weds closely the survival and permanency of the Islamic Republic system with the permanency and well-being of the Guards Corps. From his viewpoint it is not possible for the Islamic Republic system to survive without the existence of a force such as the Guards Corps, which is powerful, strong, devoted, and committed to that system. It is therefore clear that the Guards Corps enjoys the same status it had before, and that the attitude of the dear leader of the revolution is the same as that held by the great founder of the Islamic Revolution.

The Guards Corps, in its endeavors to fulfill this role, is expanding and preparing itself in a more extensive arena, and today, the Guards Corps is equipped with four forces—we have acquired a new force during the blessed leadership of the dear leader of the revolution, his eminence, the Ayatollah Khamene'i—the fourth force is the Mobilization [Basij] of the Oppressed Resistance Force, which provides organization to the mobilized forces so that the coherence of these forces may be maintained and vigilence continue, for although one may think that there is no war, at least outwardly, in reality, however, we are under conditions of both war and peace; our enemies wanted the situation to evolve this way. So, there was a need for a resistance force to be created so that our mobilized forces may maintain their links with each other. This was duly done as a result of the blessed decree of the dear leader of the revolution, and this is one of the initiatives taken in terms of organization.

The reconstruction [bazsazi] of the Guards Corps, the maintenance of the quality of the corps, the organization of the personnel of the corps, including issues related to

the jobs being done, the job classification, the categorization of ranks, and the permanent membership of our guards in the government and in the system—once the classification of jobs and job descriptions are done and once these turn into laws and regulations, our guards become permanent members of the Islamic Government. A situation would not arise whereby, in a while or so, they may say: We do not need you and the Guards Corps will not continue. Rather the corps will find new pillars of strength with these projects which are being carried out within the corps. As for training, here too we have extensive programs which brother guards are undergoing."

Officials Interviewed

LD0103145290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 1 Mar 90

["Guards Day" edition of the "In Line With the People, in Step With the Officials" program, with Seyyed Rahim Safavi, deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; 'Alireza Afshar, commander of the mobilization resistance forces; and Seyyed Mahmud Mirlowhi, deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Committees, led by unidentified moderator]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified moderator] [passage omitted] Let us ask Mr. Mirlowhi to explain how successful the committee brothers have been in the third phase of the antinarcotics plan, named "Zafar-1", which has been implemented in the city of Tehran during the past few days. How did the people welcome this plan?

[Mirlowhi] We began the antinarcotics plan with the objective of eradicating the destructive bane of narcotics in the internal arena and our country, God willing. As our dear nation has witnessed, there have been repeated maneuvers to deprive the smugglers of any respite. The third phase of the antinarcotics plan is different from the earlier ones, for we plan to exploit the popular resources by relying on information provided by the people. We plan to gather the latest information on the addicts and narcotics in all villages, towns, and city districts. Perhaps by making a full diary of the past and present narcotics discoveries, we would manage to move toward total destruction of the bane through our planning, God willing. The "Zafar-1" is, therefore, the first phase of the maneuvers, which are implemented in the third stage of the Antinarcotics-3 Plan. There have been some successful achievements so far. More than 2,500 kg of narcotics have been seized in one week. A number of addicts have been arrested, and several gangs have been broken up. I would like to bring you this happy news: In the course of a clash in the Kevir yesterday, our dear ones completely routed a convoy of narcotics smugglers, praise be to God. Unfortunately, during the process of routing this convoy and killing all its members, one of the courageous guards of the committee was martyred. The antinarcotics maneuver is powerfully continuing in the Kevir and in cities, as well.

[Moderator] Thank you. There has been a question about ranks and echelons in the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps [IRGC]. Could Mr. Safavi answer this question please?

[Safavi] Yes, the IRGC, as a mighty military force of our Islamic Republic and a fruit of the Islamic revolution, has not found the time to reorganize its internal matters, which is necessary for a military force. This is because it had many commitments in response to the confrontation with the internal conspiracies and foreign plot of the imposed war. Now that the opportunity is here—thanks be to God—the IRGC's regulations and system for allocating ranks and promotions have been compiled. These regulations have been sent to the great leader, and we hope that after their endorsement by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, we will manage to implement the system of allocating ranks in the corps.

[Moderator] Are you going to explain the issue further?
[Safavi] No!

[Moderator] Well, we hope this has satisfied those brothers who raised the question. Could Mr. Mirlowhi explain the same process in the committee?

[Mirlowhi] The process is almost the same, and we too have submitted our proposals to the great leader of the Islamic Revolution via the acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. His eminence has graciously instructed the Armed Forces General Staff to investigate the matter. It seems that the staff has expressed its expert opinion too, has completed the forms, and has returned them to the great leader of the Islamic Revolution. If His Eminence deems it expedient, it will be circulated and implemented soon, God willing. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Mr. Safavi, in view of the fact that we are still in a no war, no peace situation, please describe the combat-readiness of our combatants.

[Safavi] The IRGC combatant forces, who are mainly in the IRGC Ground Forces—that is to say, all divisions and brigades, be they mechanised, logistic, artillery, or engineering units—currently are stationed at a distance measuring 500 km from our southern and western borders. The only difference that has come about is that there is no fire being exchanged, neither by us nor by the enemy. However, all divisions and brigades are still stationed at the location of their mission on the southern, western, and northwestern borders. Furthermore, their training is being upgraded, while the maintenance and repair of their equipment is the duty of forces stationed on the borders within the ranks of ground forces. The other forces of IRGC—that is the Air Force, the Navy, and the resistance mobilization (basij) forces—are being trained chiefly in order to upgrade their training in combat-readiness and in providing support for the Ground Forces. In sum, we can say that at present our ground forces are chiefly stationed on the borders, while those forces that are not stationed there are engaged in the two fronts of upgrading training and maintaining equipment. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Mr. Mirlowhi, let us now make a reference to the reconstruction of Islamic Revolution Committees [IRC] within the framework of the economic development plan. What plans do the IRC have for maintaining their abilities and defensive powers in the future?

[Mirlowhi] Basically, as our nation is aware, the war was imposed on us by the enemy, whose aim was to prevent us from developing our country and from presenting the world nations with a suitable model. Therefore, this objective of development and reconstruction was pursued by our dear guards of Islam, even during the course of the war, and it was not forgotten. The best proof of this is that today we see that after 11 years our country has these two powerful institutions—the IRGC, for military dimensions, and the IRC, for security affairs—which are favored and supported by the nation, while the enemy constantly attacks and abuses these two institutions. This shows the massive grudge the enemy bears against these forces, which really shows the success of these revolutionary institutions. Therefore, the IRC can have extensive plans within the period of reconstruction. The most fundamental work will concern the development of security arrangements, which should be considered as the basis for all political and economic measures. Today we can witness how much hope the enemies have placed in their economic conspiracies, and they have made many plans, so that should they fail in defeating the Islamic Republic in military-political aspects, then they hope to corrupt our system from within by spreading the spirit of comfort-seeking and providing alien consumption models.

Therefore, the IRC's most important plan is the development of security in all parts of the country, though I must point out that today the enemies of this system have no foothold in any part of this vast country, and that our dear nation cleansed the towns of the presence of minigroups and corrupt counterrevolutionary elements, elements that even villages, mountains, and deserts could not bear, which had to flee to the other side of borders, where even there the hands of Hezbollah ummah and revolutionary forces did not leave them alone. They saw that some of them were destroyed even there by the supporters of Islamic revolution. Therefore, we pursue security on all borders and throughout the country, and that is the reason for presence of IRC's on the borders and deserts a presence that must be further increased and consolidated. It is for this reason that the naval units have been formed, and we have serious plans for their development during the reconstruction era, and we have laid the ground work for this already.

The issue of security in tribal areas is being pursued because of the willingness the guards have for serving the deprived and oppressed. We are planning to take security to them, so that they do not have to extend the hand of need toward us, and so that we may be able to serve the people and the deprived. For this reason, the guards currently are in service of tribal people, seeing to their security. We also pursue the issue of protection [hefazat], which implies the formation of guards to provide services to various places, such as fishery complexes, customs, sports, and other fields. We must do more work on such aspects. Law and order must be spread within the society during the era of reconstruction, while people's inclination toward obedience to the law must be increased. Our system deserves to rule a society that is orderly, law-abiding, and precise, and we must do proper work on such aspects during the reconstruction period.

The two issues of narcotics and un-Islamic acts—two inauspicious phenomena and two dangerous germs—must and will be pursued. We will follow our plans regarding narcotics until their total destruction in our country. However, we will not confine such plans to our country alone, as we have been carrying out extensive efforts in that connection on the international scene, and we hope that such efforts will bear fruit. In Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Turkey, we have seriously pursued this issue. Work also must be done in those countries since our country is only one link in this chain. We have tried to break the chain, but danger persists for our country. The issue of un-Islamilc acts is another phenomenon to which the enemy has attached hopes because it felt that our youth have become organized within revolutionary institutions and have formed Hezbollah cells. Therefore the enemy has plans in store for them, and is developing its conspiracies daily. Today, under various guises, the enemy is importing ugly and disgusting models into our country, be they clothing or others. The enemy meaning the arrogant West, is planning to set up programs to fill the entertainment time of our youth. We must do some thinking about this, and the IRC has prepared extensive plans in that regard which, if supported, will be implemented. We have already presented such ideas to the country's Security Council and have informed the country's high-ranking officials about them. We have plans regarding methods for encountering any kind of corruption that be brought about in the country by the enemies. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Thank you, let us now hear some telephone calls from our listeners: [passage omitted]

[Unidentified caller] I would like to ask a question about the merger of the police force and the IRC. I would like to know whether or not this is true. [passage omitted]

[Mirlowhi] [passage omitted] In reply to the question about the merger, I must say that a bill on merger of security forces—that is to say, the IRCs, police, and gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic—has been submitted to the Majles, which has ratified its urgency. The committees on internal affairs and defense presently are working on this matter, and no definite result has been produced as yet. We, too, are waiting so that, God willing, a decision may be made in this connection which is in line with the interests of the system. What is clear, however, is that the guards of IRCs have made the presupposition to continue their path of last 11 years in the future, to serve as the guardians of this sacred

system, and to act according to its interests. The institution of the IRC is a memento from the imam and was the first institution the imam formed after the revolution. According to his own words in the message which he sent to IRC officials in 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988]: This is an institution formed in order to safeguard the achievements of revolution. The IRC must be confident that the aim of its formation will always be preserved, and that our system always needs the sacrifices and selflessness of such guards. Therefore, no one should worry about that issue.

[Moderator] Thank you. [passage omitted]

$10 Billion Slated for Military Modernization

LD0103183790 Tehran IRNA in English 1728 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March, 1, IRNA—Iran intends to spend dlrs 10 billion on arms purchase and modernization of its Armed Forces in the upcoming 5-year development plan, the minister of defence and Armed Forces logistics said Thursday.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps day, Akbar Torkan said that in modernizing the Armed Forces, emphasis would be place on training and organization.

The birth anniversary of Imam Husayn, the grandson of the Prophet, is celebrated in Islamic Iran as Roz-e Pasdor (Guards Day). The Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics is a merger of the ministries of Defence and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

Karrubi Praises Role of Army in Revolution

LD2602120190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Mr. Karrubi, the Majles speaker, delivered a speech today at a gathering of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army Ground Force commanders at the General Staff command college. Referring to the fact that the imam of the ummah had a special regard for the Armed Forces and for the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army Karrubi said: The former regime, with all its propaganda and resources, believed that the Army would support them and their future generations. We saw, however, that the Army stood apart from them, did not support them at sensitive and fateful moments, and joined the people and the revolution.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Majles speaker stressed the development and fundamental change which took place in the army after the revolution at the hands of worthy Armed Forces personnel and eminent clergymen. He added: Incidents such as the arrest of a large number of army personnel in the course of the revolution by the former regime and events such as the Lavizan garrison incident [in which imperial guards were sent to crush protesting air cadets marking the start of the revolution] and 8 September 1979 [Black Friday] all reveal that the body and the institution of the army were for Islam, for the revolution, and for the imam of the ummah. It was for that very reason that his eminence had special regard for the Army. And the only person who stood up to and was capable of opposing the inauspicious calls for the disbandment of the army was his eminence the imam himself.

Mr. Karrubi noted: Had it not been for the decisiveness, courage, and firmness of his eminence the imam, scheming political groups would have achieved their inauspicious aim, which was the disbandment of the Army. Let the Armed Forces, the people, and future generations know what great threats to the nation and the revolution were avoided through God's favor and the vigilance of the imam of the ummah. All of us are indebted to the imam and if the imam had not confronted those twisted ploys with decisiveness, it is difficult to know what calamity would have befallen this country after the victory of the revolution.

According to the same report, at the start of the meeting, Brigadier General Hasani-Sa'di, commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army, presented a report to the Majles speaker on the selflessness of the Islamic Republic of Iran's armed personnel in the course of over eight years of holy defense.

Emami-Kashani Urges Unity in Friday Sermon

LD0203114190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] The Muslim and faithful people of our country were present today, during these divine days coinciding with the blessed anniversaries of their holinesses Imam Husayn, Abolfazl al-'Abbas, and Sajjad, peace be on them, at the Friday prayer sites to hold these immortal Mohamadan rites.

The Hezbollah ummah of Tehran, meanwhile, held the political-religious Friday prayers at Tehran University and in adjacent streets under the leadership of Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani.

Offering his congratulations on the occasion of the blessed anniversaries of His Holiness Husayn and His Holiness 'Abol fazl 'Abbas, and His Holiness Zeyn ol-'Abedin, and also offering greetings for the arrival of 15 Sha'ban [the 15th of the Arabic lunar month of Sha'ban coincides with 13 March] which is the anniversary of His Holiness Mahdi, may God hasten his reappearance, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani said: In the same way as the anniversary of His Holiness Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, has rightly been named Pasdar Day [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Day], so the birthday if His Holiness 'Abol Fazl 'Abbas is also Disabled Day—may God bless them with His kindness.

He said that character-building has always been recommended by His Holiness Zeyn ol-'Abedin and he said in

his book "Sajjadieh" that the value of societies and the greatness of the Islamic society stems from building human character. He also recommended that Muslims follow their prophets, guardians, and leader.

He said: Although today we have among us valuable characters who were built by our great late leader who drew on his immaculate self, any human being must continuously be on guard lest he be trapped by Satan's temptation. And as such we must all continue to cleanse our inner selves.

Arguing that all the revolutions which took place in the world had economic objectives and that in the final analysis they met with defeat, he then referred to the everlasting character of the revolution of the prophets as well as the Islamic revolution and added: The reason that the Islamic revolution has stayed erect and proud, despite all the pressures, hostilities, and obstructionism, especially the imposed war, and the reason that the people are still present on the scene is because it is a movement for God. It is an Islamic movement.

Referring to the fact that the valuable and active government of the Islamic Republic is committed to solving the economic problems, he said: The world of arrogance and the enemies make remarks and sometimes some individuals utter things out of ignorance. Yet, I stress with full confidence that, God willing, with the help from the people, through solidarity, through unanimity of word and through planning, the government of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani will succeed in removing the difficulties.

Stressing the need for us to maintain our unity now more than ever before, and also stressing the need to refraining from discord, he said: While all the enemies are bent on dealing blows to our revolution, we must be sincere with ourselves more than ever before. We must shun anything which may bring about discord and disunity among us. He added: Our society lives under conditions in which, to bring about reconstruction, it needs to make efforts in the social, political, and economic fields by relying on commitment, specialization, hard work, ample production, and low levels of consumption.

Kharrazi on UN Statement, Agenda for Talks

LD0103183190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] The UN secretary general submitted the Security Council's latest statement on the resumption of Iran-Iraq peace talks and the implementation of Resolution 598 to our country's permanent representative to the United Nations yesterday. We have conducted a telephone interview with Mr. Kharrazi, our country's permanent representative to the United Nations, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Kharrazi, in view of the UN Security Council's support for the secretary general's efforts and the report submitted to you, how do you forecast the future trend of the talks?

[Kharrazi] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. First, I would like to point out that the general secretary has expressed much satisfaction and believes that in the wake of Resolution 598, that [the Security Council statement] is the strongest and most effective instrument which has been placed at his disposal, in accordance with which he will be able to pursue the talks. Naturally, due to his swiftness of action, he officially presented me with the statement straightaway. Having expressed his happiness, he hoped that, to that end, he will be able to take decisive and practical steps.

We are, however, expecting to see the agenda for the talks, which should be submitted to us, by his excellency [UN secretary general], so that we may see the ways by which he wishes to pursue the talks. We believe that any given agenda should clearly indicate the resolution's priorities, specifically the issue of the withdrawal [of Iraqi forces to internationally recognized boundaries], as well as the methods by which he wishes to implement the stages of the resolution, specifically the implementation of the withdrawal, which constitutes a significant step in the continuation of the talks and the resolution of the war issue. [end recording]

Pohl's Human Rights Report Disappoints MKO

LD0103213190 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—Two English-language morning dailies Thursday editorialized on the recent report of the U.N. Human Rights Commission on the status of prisoners in Iran.

'TEHRAN TIMES' wrote that the report came as "a quick shock" to the opponents of the Islamic Republic who expected it to be "in the usual format of condemnation". But, the daily added, to those who cannot be persuaded by all the false propaganda of the world, "it is indeed a consolation."

The 76-page report of the Salvadoran lawyer Reynaldo Galindo Pohl caused "a wave of shock in some, especially the Mojahedin-e Khalq organisation [MKO]' (whose members are better known....as the Monafeqin or hypocrites, because of the deviant nature of their activities in Iran), said the article. It added that on the eve of Pohl's visit to Iran, the Monafeqin drummed up a worldwide campaign by staging hunger strikes and press conferences in the capitals of various countries.

"Having failed and now rebuffed after this report, the Monafeqin have gone further and trumped up charges against Galindo Pohl himself saying that there was a deal between Iran and the West to camouflage the report," noted the article.

It concluded by saying that the report is enough to wash away all false allegations made against Iran, adding "truth has to have its day and here is an instance of that before the world."

Commenting on the same subject, 'KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL' said that ever since the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, Western media and Iranian opposition groups leaving outside the country, have staged false propaganda against it.

"All along the two groups—the foreign media and the opposition, particularly the MKO—have tried together to discredit Iranian government measures as being not sincere and politically motivated," wrote the article.

The daily added that when it was initially proposed to have a U.N. human rights investigator sent to Iran to study the allegations against the Iranian government everyone of Iran's opponents supported the idea, "thinking that the final report would give weight to what they've already said all along."

The report of the U.N. investigator turned down almost all the accusations made against Iran, the daily said, adding that is why Iranian opposition and western media were quick in calling it "completely manipulated, biased and devoid of credibility."

The article conluded: "The report by Mr. Pohl should help those who had an uncertain picture about the state of human rights in Iran or those who had misgivings toward the legitimacy of the Iranian Government."

Further Reaction to Report

LD0103213590 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 1, IRNA—The 'Organization for Defence of Victims of Violence' Thursday described the report of the the U.N. investigator Reynaldo Galindo Pohl on the condition of prisoners in Iran as "positive".

A member of the organisation, Mr. Ahmadi told IRNA today that this time the U.N. Human Rights Commission's report "contains plenty of truth" for which appreciations should be extended for its investigators.

Previously, he added, the commission compiled its reports on the basis of the allegations of those who themselves were the main violaters of human rights.

"This weak point has been removed in Mr. Galindo Pohl's report to some extent" Ahmadi said hoping that the way would be paved for the commission to be cleared of its accusations and people would believe its impartiality.

The Organization for Defence of Victims of Violence was set up two years ago wth an objective to restore rights of the victims of violence and believes that Iran's constitution best guarantees human rights in the country.

Families of those assassinated or injured by terrorists, some released political prisoners, families of those executed, former advocates of terrorist groups, and representatives of religious and ethnic minorities are members of the organization.

Families of those executed maintain that terrorist organizations by deceiving their children or relatives had sacrificed them for the sake of their own interests and those of their alien collaborators Ahmadi said.

On the allegations by the terrorist Mojahedin-e [Khalq] Organization [MKO] that the U.N. investigator had worked out a deal with Iran on the issue of human rights, Ahmadi noted that the MKO was part of the Iraqi Army and Baghdad's intelligence agency.

Therefore, their stationing in Iraq and their espionage activities throughout the eight year Iraqi imposed war, was an indication to the fact that "The MKO is a tool in the hands of Iraq", thinking merely of Iraq's interests.

Ahmadi noted that during Pohl's visit to Iran a number of members of his organization conferred with him and reported on human rights condition in Iran and on true nature of terrorist groups.

Turkish Delegation Concludes Visit to Tehran

State Minister on Increasing Trade

TA0103191890 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] State Minister Cemil Cicek, who is in Tehran, talked to our correspondent there in connection with the meeting of the Turkish-Iranian economic committee. He said the aim is to raise the volume of trade from $1 billion to $1.5 or $2 billion. He said efforts will be made to conduct commercial relations between Turkey and Iran on the basis of a free foreign exchange rate. An agreement in principle has been reached on the issue by the two countries, he said.

Cicek also pointed out that the two countries agreed to base bilateral economic and commercial relations on lasting principles. He stated that Turkish businessmen are making contacts in order to activate certain idle industrial establishments in Iran. He said: Turkey has informed Iran that, in order to develop bilateral commercial and economic relations in this new period, it will be able to extend to Iran a commercial credit of $300 million and a credit of up to $400 million for industrial and contractor services through the [name indistinct] Bank.

State Minister Cicek stated that, during the meetings, the two sides agreed to carry out more comprehensive work regarding the delivery of Iranian natural gas to European countries via Turkey, and in connection with the transportation of energy.

Habibi Views Iraq Conflict

LD0103200390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] During the second round of talks held between Mr. Habibi, the first vice president, and Mr. Yildirim Akbulut, the prime minister of Turkey, at which the heads of the two countries' joint commissions were also present, the Turkish prime minister termed his talks with officials from the Islamic Republic of Iran as positive, saying: As expected, we reached agreements on the generalities of the issues under consideration, specifically in economic and industrial fields. He reiterated: We are in favor of the establishment of a lasting peace between Iran and Iraq.

Mr. Habibi, for his part said: We, too are happy with the progress reached in the talks, and hope that relations between the two friendly and Muslim countries will be further expanded.

On [UN Security Council] Resolution 598, the first vice president said: Like you, we do not consider a no war, no peace situation to be an optimal condition, and unfortunately we have not attained a lasting peace, due to Iraqi intransigence. This is an issue which spells danger for establishing peace and stability in the region and throughout the world.

Akbulut, Habibi Assess Talks

LD0203115190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut has completed his three-day official visit to our country and left Tehran after signing a memorandum of understanding. He was seen off by First Deputy President Habibi. In an interview with our correspondent, the Turkish prime minister expressed satisfaction with his visit to Iran and described his talks with the officials of our country as positive. He added:

[Begin Akbulut recording in Turkish with superimposed Persian translation] In these meetings, we were very happy to feel the mutual political determination for the establishment of a comprehensive and stable relationship between Iran and Turkey. The implementation of the protocol which has been signed is our wish. [end recording]

Our correspondent also conducted an interview with Mr. Habibi to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr. Habibi, could you please tell us what were the results of the Turkish prime minister's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Habibi] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. This official visit by Turkish Prime Minister Akbulut to Iran came in connection with the joint commission which meets annually in Iran and Turkey alternatively. In this visit the commission achieved considerable results both on commercial issues and industrial issues. The decision is that, God willing, next yeaar and in subsequent years, first of all, the foundations of commercial, scientific, and economic relations will be based on a continuous and lasting basis and that short-term measures should be refrained from. Therefore, it was decided that the vacant industrial capacities on both sides should be filled with the cooperation of the two sides and some joint plans should be implemented in this connection.

As regards commercial exchanges, efforts have been made so that in addition to consumer goods these exchanges should take place in industrial commodities as well. Iran and Turkey have decided to exchange industrial goods. In other words, it should not be just one side which exports industrial goods to the other side, but these exports and imports should come from both sides. It is natural that oil constitutes part of these exchanges, and the issue of a gas pipeline to Turkey and from Turkey to other countries was also discussed. These discussions will continue and, God willing, in the near future they will bear fruit. In any case, on the whole, it was a very good visit. Common views on political, social, and industrial issues were discussed. [end recording]

Commentary on Akbulut Visit

NC0203092790 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Unattributed commentary: "Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut's Visit to Iran"]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut of Turkey arrived in Tehran and was met by the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the airport. During his four-day official visit, which is at the invitation of Iranian First Deputy President Hasan Habibi, Akbulut will hold talks with high-ranking Iranian officials on the question of improving relations between Turkey and Iran.

Although Turkey and Iran have historic relations, it is common knowledge that those relations changed significantly after the Islamic struggle in Iran. Significant steps were taken to improve relations between the two sides through frequent joint committee meetings on economic and trade matters during the past few years. Many agreements were signed during these meetings, providing for cooperation on the purchase and sale of oil and matters related to transportation and trade. Turkey became one of Iran's largest trade partners during the past few years as a result of these agreements.

Relations between the two countries have further improved since the beginning of 1990. An indication of this is the mutual visits of economic officials. The visit of the Iranian deputy minister of heavy industries, the protocol signed for cooperation on border issues between the two countries, the visit of the Turkish minister of communications to Iran, and the recent visit of the

Turkish state minister for economic affairs indicate that the relations between the two countries are developing at a fast pace in 1990.

Meanwhile, the Turkish prime minister, who is currently visiting Iran, will hold talks on the improvement of economic relations between Turkey and Iran as much as possible. Within this context, the project for the construction of a natural gas pipeline from Iran to Turkey is of great importance. In addition to economic matters, political issues of concern to both sides will also be discussed during Prime Minister Akbulut's visit. A new protocol is expected to be signed on cooperation in economic and trade matters at the end of Prime Minister Akbulut's visit.

Taking into consideration the positive relations between the two countries during the past few years and the fact that the economic relations between Turkey and Iran have developed at a fast pace as of 1990, Prime Minister Akbulut's visit to Tehran can be described as a step in the direction of further strengthening the political and economic relations between the two countries.

Turkish Official on Hotel Incident

LD0103184590 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 1, IRNA—Press advisor to the Turkish prime minister today denied reports that the visiting Turkish delegation had protested to Iran over the illegal entry of two persons into the room of one of the Turkish delegates at Esteqlal Hotel here Wednesday.

Sabaheddin Gunes regretting the incident and its coverage in some Turkish dailies today, told IRNA that the Turkish delegation 'has not requested any formal explanation from Iran', in the light of the mutual friendly relations between the two countries. He also expressed the hope that Iranian officials would take appropriate measures to prevent such incidents.

Two thieves identified as a part-time employee of the hotel and his accomplice were caught stealing from a Turkish businessman's room Wednesday afternoon.

The Turkish media had alleged earlier today that the thieves were 'two Iranian intelligent officers.'

Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut is currently visiting Iran at the head of a delegation.

Editorial on Disunity Among Afghan Mujahidin

NC2302090190 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Deadlock Persists in Afghanistan"]

[Text] Thursday Feb 15 was the anniversary of the Soviet pullout from Afghanistan. Last year at this time there were very few analysts who were prepared to risk their credibility predicting that Najibullah's puppet government in Kabul could survive until today with the Red Army then bowing out of Afghanistan.

But the Kabul regime has remained in power against all odds. Has it been because of the regime's popular base? Certainly not. The reason for Najib's survival should simply be sought in the weakness of the alternative forces.

Mujahidin had forged a rather strong unity and shared a common objective before the Soviet occupation forces' pullout.

Now one main problem in the troubled country today is that there are just too many players in Afghanistan's domestic and foreign political scene. The problem becomes compounded given the diametrically opposed views sponsored by these foreign and internal elements. Some of the Mujahidin factions are actually enmeshed in views so different from one another that the gulf separating them seems unbridgeable.

The recent meeting of the American Secretary of State James Baker with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze too has apparently had no effective consequence for the Afghanistan problem.

What can be deduced from Washington's modus operandi over that last year is the fact that the U.S. only used Afghanistan to settle scores with Moscow for what the latter did to it during the Vietnam war.

In other words the Americans took advantage of the Moslem Afghans' zeal to defeat their own politico-military rival in the country. As such, the U.S. assistance to some Mujahidin factions during the Soviet occupation was not meant to help Afghan fighters assume the power to run the country the way they wished. The American help was only to corner the Soviets and replace them in Afghanistan.

But since the Soviet withdrawal last year the U.S. has acted very irresponsibly in the face of the Afghan crisis. In fact Washington's primary concern has been only to bring to power in Kabul a governent of its own; one totally aligned to its own designs.

And a governent agreeable to Washington will not be from among the revolutionaries Moslem [as published] not even from among the most conservative wings of them. The U.S. support for the former king Zahir Shah, its opposition to the toppling of the Najib government at this stage and its suspension of arms dispatches to the Mujahidin at present all testify to this policy line on the part of the United States.

Now given the dispersion befallen the Mujahidin forces, it has to be admitted, regretably though, that time is not on their side.

Recent developments in Eastern Europe too have greatly contributed to the dilution of the danger of communism

in Afghanistan and the West is thus not as sensitive as it used to be to this issue in the early 80s.

Besides, one big problem is the fact that both the seven-party alliance in Pakistan and the Tehran-based nine-party coalition seem to suffer from the disability to rightfully analyze international developments at this juncture and see their connection to the regional issues and their own situation.

Editorial Suggests Changes to Soviet Afghan Plan

NC2802114790 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "What Should Be Done To End the Afghan Crisis?"]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze announced a 10-article plan on ways to end the Afghanistan crisis last week. This plan was actually first aired through rather non-official channels to provide Moscow with clues as to the receptibility of the plan by international circles before its official announcement.

Shevardnadze's plan however cannot be either wholly accepted or rejected. It does include certain positive features that, once improved, can play a pivotal role in bringing the decade-long conflict to an end.

One such positive provision of the plan is its acceptance of the convening of a national election and the respect it has paid Afghan people's vote in determining the fate of their country.

But the same plan also includes certain drawbacks that hampers its practically. Its Article Four, discussing Najibullah's plan is one such negative point.

Najibullah had asked for a gradual transition of power while the communists held on to power during the transitional period.

What can be now done to finally bring to an end the agony of this Muslim nation that has spent over a decade in the miserable misfortunes of war with startling human and economic losses to preserve its Islamic identity?

The following suggestions, it is hoped, encapsulate the views and aspirations of the Mujahidin and the citizens of Afghanistan:

A front including all the combatant forces, away from any sectarian motivation, should be set up to air views acceptable to Mujahidin as a whole.

Also a comprehensive ceasefire should be effected and observed by all parties. With the Soviet forces now out of the Afghan territory the continuation of the armed confrontation is sheer fratricide and should be avoided by all means.

Amidst this a peace conference, with Afghanistan's neighboring countries which bore part of the brunt of the Afghan crisis for the last decade also represented, should be set up. These nations should of course play an observer role over the peace talks and boost them.

Meanwhile a national census should be convened to determine the type of government the Afghan people prefer for their country. The United Nations should oversee the referendum to ensure a democratic climate for it.

Once these steps are successfully taken an election to appoint representatives for the compilation of a new constitution should be held in a truly democratic atmosphere.

The non-militarization of Afghanistan, as brought up in Shevardnadze's plan should be left to be decided by the Afghan nation and cannot be dealt with out of hand now. Being an internal issue such a matter should be solely within the jurisdiction of the future leader of the nation to choose the way that contributes to their national security best.

'Political Roundtable' Views Kashmir Dispute

NC0103192890

[Editorial Report] Tehran Television Service in Persian at 1718 GMT carried the weekly "Political Roundtable" on Network 2. Reception was good.

Islamic Majles' Foreign Affairs Committee member Mostafa Morsali, Iran's former Ambassador to New Delhi Javid Qorban-oghli, and an unidentified moderator participated.

The program begins with a documentary of Kashmir. The documentary stresses Kashmir's scenic beauty and location and cites UN resolutions calling for a plebiscite in Kashmir. It also provides some background on the Kashmir dispute.

The speakers review the origin of the dispute and the partition of the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent. They say that they will not discuss the political implications or India or Pakistan's position. They agree that the dispute stems from the fact that there is a 90 percent Muslim majority in Kashmir while Hindus and Sikhs are a small minority of the population. In recent weeks the Muslims have been staging massive demonstrations to attain the right to forge their own destiny.

Morsali adds that religious differences were the root of the subcontinent's partition and the reason for the creation of Pakistan. This quest for religious identity has sparked protests in Kashmir. Qorban-oghli adds that despite India's denial, the demonstrations have an Islamic bias.

*Paper on 'Secret Relations' With South Africa

90OI0170B London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Feb 90 pp 1, 11

[Text] Six Iranian sailors who had tried unsuccessfully to seek asylum in South Africa were returned to Iran by

force. According to the South African newspapers, these sailors, who have revealed the secret relations of the regime of the Islamic Republic with the Government of South Africa, face the threat of execution.

These sailors had gone to South Africa in an Iranian ship called the "Mc Gem" to carry Iranian cargo to South Africa and had docked in Durban Port to unload its cargo. They decided to leave the ship and as a group seek asylum in South Africa. According to the South African press, one of the sailors, called "Ahmad," slit his wrist and flung himself into the sea, but he was arrested and returned to the ship.

The South African press, which on 5 February reported this event, have written that the other five sailors were also prevented from seeking asylum, and now that the six unfortunate sailors are on their way back to Iran on the "Mc Gem," on their arrival in the Iranian ports, all of them, particularly the one who had slit his wrist, might face execution by the Islamic officials.

No other details are given in the report on the unsuccessful efforts of the six Iranian sailors to seek asylum in South Africa. But a public relations officer of the South African navy at Durban Port by the name of Bala Naidoo has verified this event.

The report on this event also does not indicate what cargo the Iranian ship "Mc Gem" had carried to South Africa.

Considering that the regime of the Islamic Republic consistently claims that it does not have the slightest commercial or economic relations with the racist regime of South Africa, the exposure of this relationship can harm the credibility of the Islamic regime among the African countries. We should point out that several weeks ago, in one of his speeches, Hashemi-Rafsanjani claimed that the Islamic Republic regime has by no means any relations with Israel and South Africa. But now, with this event, it is not clear how he can repeat this claim.

One of those who has been working with the National Arya Shipping Company in transportation in the recent years said to KEYHAN that the main reason for choosing foreign names for some of the Iranian commercial ships is simply to hide the trafficking of these ships to South African ports or those of other countries with which the Islamic Republic claims it has no trade relations.

According to this informed source, previously such incidents have happened for sailors of Iranian ships. One such case happened last year in Italy. But this time, the sailors who have caused the exposure of the secret commercial relationship between the regime of the Islamic Republic and the government of South Africa will face more dire consequences upon their return to Iran.

Rift in Clerical Hierarchy Examined

NC2602132890 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 0600 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Following the manifestation of vehement opposition by the sources of emulation and prominent clerics to Khamene'i's flimsy leadership, cleric Karrubi, speaker of the reactionary Majles appeared on the scene today [as heard] and voiced the intense concern of the regime's echelons about the mounting of such opposition. In the open session of the Majles this morning, Karrubi said that one is hearing strange (?whisperings), which are a source of astonishment. One wonders about how, in less than a year since the imam's demise, these utterances and discussions in our religious circles seem to be emanating from personalities from whom we have no such expectations.

Earlier, the mullah Azari-Qomi spoke at the Friday exhibition of Tehran and revealed that at the clerics' conclave in Qom last Thursday, some of the sources of emulation and clerics demanded that Khamene'i not intervene in the affairs of the seminaries and questioned his leadership.

Continuing his remarks, the mullah cleric Karrubi revealed that one of the reasons for conflict and opposition concerns funds. While he blamed the sources of emulation in the seminaries for the bad practices and discrepancies, he said: We know very well what these discussions' objective is. Those who hide behind cloaks and create such an atmosphere should know that we will not permit this any longer. Karrubi threatened the sources of emulation and clerics who are opposed to the policy of the ruling clique and said: To those who are operating behind the scenes, who feel that the situation has been changed, I wish to declare that they should not endeavor to play with fire behind the scenes. The revolutionary forces, that is the club wielders and mercenaries of the regime, are ready and are present. The atmosphere is still the same, and the imam's spirit rules over society. Those who are working behind the scenes should not feel that something has happened and changes are in the offing. They are merely laboring under a delusion.

The speaker of the reactionary Majles admitted in these remarks that the regime's prestige is at stake in these seminaries and as a result of the demise of the tyrant and with the surfacing of its repercussions, discord and disunity have engulfed the regime's (?hierarchy).

AFP stated in a commentary yesterday that the clerics ruling Iran are more divided than ever before on the future of the regime. This news agency, reporting the vocalization of objections by the sources of emulation and prominent clerics of the seminaries against the ruling clique, states: The attack by a section of the clergy against the leaders of the Iranian regime began when they questioned the declaration of Khamene'i as the leader following Khomeyni's demise. These opponents

are of the opinion that Khamene'i does not have enough theological qualifications for wielding such a position.

Velayati Message on Rushdie Delivered to Al-Huss

LD0103114790 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati's message to Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss on the occasion of the anniversary of the issuance of the fatwa [religious edict] by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sanctified—was delivered to Al-Huss yesterday by an adviser to our country's Foreign Ministry.

Commentary Discusses 1990-91 Budget

NC2402092990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani presented the budget bill for the 1990-91 fiscal year to the Islamic Majles last Tuesday. The 4.9-billion-rial budget for 1990-91 is the first budget bill to be drafted within the framework of the first Five-Year Plan for the economic, social, and cultural development of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

One of the main shortcomings in the country's budgets in the past few years was the failure to base them on economic expansion programs. Although the budgets envisage the financial program for one year, until now they have not been operating as part of a long-term program. From this point of view, the 1990-91 budget is a new experience in budget formulation since the victory of the Islamic revolution.

The Islamic Republic's first economic, social, and cultural development plan, which recently won the final approval of the Islamic Majles deputies, envisions average growth of 8 percent in the gross domestic product. The plan, as part of the budget, will have a positive effect on the executive system of the country.

In his speech presenting the 1990-91 budget bill, the president said: Our domestic circumstances are favorable for the implementation of the budget. All our officials believe in the plan and its role in their lives. They always complained about this void, this lack of a program in their work environment, and now they are hopeful.

Another important point to consider about the 1990-91 budget is that it was formulated under the cease-fire. This was also the case when the 1989-90 budget was presented last year, but this year the conditions in the country are more stable. The absence of war eliminates the vulnerability of our estimates and uncertainty over expenditures. Under the cease-fire, it is possible to reallocate funds from current defense expenditure to the developmental sectors.

In his speech, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the conditions of neither war nor peace and the need to pay attention to defense matters. He said: Nevertheless, the current conditions differ from those of the past when budgets were totally dominated by the war effort. This is not the case now. You can see from the statistics and figures that education has taken the place of the war. Culture, higher education, education and training, and vocational training are top priorities in the plan.

The 1990-91 budget for the country predicts a 27.3 percent increase in income compared with the 1989-90 budget. Of this increase, 40.5 percent is to come from revenue, 27.2 percent from oil and gas, and 32.3 percent from all other sources. In this manner, the gross domestic product, which had experienced a downward trend in recent years, will rise from 4.5 to 5.5 in 1990-91.

In 1990-91, exports of petroleum byproducts will reach some $407 million, an increase of 123 percent over the estimates for the current year. In the 1990-91 budget, income obtained from exports of natural gas will also add to the increase in the government's income for the first time. Important economic schemes will become operational as well. As was the case with the budgets of the past few years, the 1990-91 budget has a deficit. On the basis of the Five- Year Plan, it is anticipated that the 2,146-billion-rial deficit in the 1988-89 government budget will be reduced to 92.5 billion rials by 1993. There is also a sizable increase of 60.2 percent in the funds allocated to development compared with the 1989-90 budget.

Another prominent feature of the 1990-91 budget is the attention it pays to the deprived and less developed areas of the country. In this regard, an additional investment of 229 billion rials will be made.

In any case, the 1990-91 budget is an extremely sensitive one and, following its approval by the Islamic Majles, all should strive to assist in attaining the objectives specified in the estimates of its income and expenditure. Shortfalls in the figures envisioned by the 1990-91 budget will have an adverse effect on the intensive and effective implementation of the Five-Year Plan.

Amended Budget Ratified

NC0103075590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] The cabinet met yesterday afternoon. IRNA reports that domestic and international developments were discussed during this session. Also, the bill amending the state budget for the year beginning 21 March 1990 within the framework of the Five-Year Plan was discussed and ratified.

Industries Minister on Projects, Foreign Currency

LD2202160490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0904 GMT 22 Feb 90

["In Line With the People, in Step With Officials" phone-in program with unidentified moderator, Minister of Heavy Industries Mohammad Nejad-Hoseyniyan, Safa'i Farahani, deputy for plan and programs in the Industries Ministry; Dr. Govahi, deputy for economic and trade affairs; and Engineer Mehr-'Alizadeh, deputy for industrial and utilization projects affairs, on 22 February—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] Good day to you, dear listeners and also to you, respected compatriots abroad. We will begin this week's program "In Line With the People, in Step With the Officials", broadcast directly from the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Just as you have already been informed, we have as our guests this week, the respected minister of heavy industries, Mr. Nejad-Hoseyniyan and his deputies. [passage omitted]

Permit us to begin with questions called in regarding the Ministry of Heavy Industries. [passage omitted] A brother has asked what proportion of provisional permits [movafegatha-ye usuli] reach utilization stage. Please, could Your Excellency reply?

[Nejad-Hoseyniyan] Yes. I will provide you with a general picture right now. So far 6,080 provisional permits have been issued by the Industries Ministry, involving a volume of investment of close to 40 billion tomans. Of these, 1,960 have been cancelled and 2,600, involving a volume of investment of approximately 12 billion tomans, have reached utilization stage. The remainder of the provisional permits amount to 1,520, which need nearly 20 billion tomans worth of investment and which are in their various stages of implementation. To complete these provisional permits we need 1,130 million dollars worth of foreign exchange. Fortunately, the necessary forecast has been made in the Five-Year Plan for securing this amount of foreign exchange; and also for the foreign exchange needed for fresh investments. I will take advantage of being on this program and explain to the dear listeners these various methods of investment, which have been envisaged in the Five-Year Plan.

Three methods have been envisioned in the Five-Year Plan that allow us to use foreign currency for investment in the heavy industry sector; one is the allocation by the government of foreign exchange which is derived from oil incomes. In the course of the five years, 1,900 million dollars worth of credit have been envisioned for the heavy industries projects of the country and well, this is about 800 million dollars more than the foreign exchange we need, to enable us to finish our incompleted projects. The second method envisioned in the Five-Year Plan is the buy-back [ravesh-e bey'-e moteqabel] method. In this method, if the foreign permit-issuer of the foreign company that sells the machine tools to us should accept that in exchange for these machines they would purchase from us the manufactured products of that same industrial unit, same project or other products of the heavy industrial sector, then we, or I should say the Central Bank, would give the necessary guarantee to that seller. We can invest up to 3,000 million dollars on this method. The third method is the credit method. This is the way it works: The foreign seller should accept that the foreign currency cost of the machine tools he is selling to us will be paid to him in installments in the course of five years after that unit has become operational. In this connection too, the Central Bank will give the necessary guarantee to the foreign seller. Thus, it has been envisioned that in the course of the Five-Year Plan we will have 6,770 million dollars worth of foreign currency in total from these three practices, placed at our disposal to invest in the country's heavy industry sector. Therefore, I think that not only will the semi-completed investments which are still left have a chance of being completed, God willing, but we also have very many investments on our hands, which are currently receiving attention and are being examined. Hopefully we will also be able to see them being implemented in the country. The difference with these three methods is that with the second and third methods—the buy-back and the credit methods—the foreign currency will be allocated in one lump sum. Because of this, many of the difficulties the projects encountered in these past few years due to a lack of foreign currency will not now occur. God willing, these projects may more quickly and more easily reach the productivity stage.

President Sends Message to Seminar on Women

LD2402125790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Excerpts] A seminar on the character of women from the viewpoint of Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be admitted to paradise—began today with a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in 'Allameh Amini Hall, Tehran University.

According to a Central News Unit report, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in his message which was read by the president's cultural and social advisor, remarked on the merit of and esteem for women in Islam, and the women's position in the Islamic system. According to his message, Islam considers women, like men, as being endowed with human nobility and dignity, regarding them as socially and economically independent. It exhorts on the need for the reign of love and compassion, sincerity and integrity over the people. These remarks on women, which were graciously delivered by our great Imam—may God's blessing be upon him—in the course of his 10 years as the leader of the Islamic revolution, emanated from the Koran, and reflected the prophetic tradition. [passage omitted]

The seminar on the character of women from the viewpoint of Imam Khomeyni—may God's blessing be upon him—will continue tomorrow. [passage omitted]

*Deputy Commander of Komitehs on Heroin Addiction

90OI0172B London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] Last week the horrifying statistics on the discovery of narcotics in Iran over seven years (from 1360 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982] to 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989]) were announced. Mahmud Mirlohi, the deputy for the operations of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee, who announced these statistics, confessed that many young people have left the classrooms and the work place and have turned to addiction. He confessed that "the 20 tons of heroin discovered in the past seven years is enough to addict four million people." He emphasized that "the amount of heroin discovered was insignificant compared to the amount distributed among addicts." Mirlohi then concluded that "certain hands are directing this tragedy," but he did not mention whose they were.

The chart of various narcotics discovered by the law enforcement agencies in the seven years is as follows:

Heroin: 19,907 (nearly 20 tons)
Opium: 240,789 (over 240 tons)
Opium residue and opium: 43,387 kg (over 43 tons)
Hashish: 40,644 kg (over 40 tons)
Total: 341,828 kg (over 341 tons)

The above account and Mirlohi's statements, based on the addiction of at least four million people to heroin, indicate the depth of a great social tragedy.

New Satellite TV Station Installed

LD2602115890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Summary] The five-watt Vahnan satellite television station was installed and started up by the personnel of Hamedan television and FM transmitters unit. It will beam Tehran television programs on channel seven to over 6,000 inhabitants of the villages of Vahnan, Hesar-e Gharebaghi, Darreh Ghul, and nearby villages, in the district of Bahar.

TV Transmitter Reopened in Bakhtaran Province

LD2302141290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Excerpt] On the occasion of his holiness the messenger's Mab'ath [divine call to prophethood], may God's benedictions be upon him and his scion, the Kuh-e Nur television transmitter in Bakhtaran Province was commissioned in the presence of Mr. Hashemi, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Voice and Vision.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, the television station, which was damaged during the imposed war, is now, after reconstruction by the television network planning and expansion unit, using two powerful 10-kilowatt transmitters, which beam the programs of the first and the second channels of Islamic Republic of Iran television to the inhabitants of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Qasr-e Shirin, Khosravi, and Kerend-e Gharb, as well as to 556 villages of the region, on channels 11 and 2 respectively. [passage omitted]

Voice and Vision Chief Attends

LD2402194590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] The Kuh-e Nur television station in Bakhtaran Province, which had been damaged in several enemy air raids during the war, was restarted, after being repaired, on the anniversary of the prophetic mission of the Prophet Muhammad, during a ceremony attended by radio and television chief Mohammad Hashemi, Hojjat ol-Eslam Zarandi, representative of the jurisconsult and Friday imam of Bakhtaran, Rowghani-Zanjani, vice president and head of the Plan and Budget Organization, and a number of radio and television and local officials.

Using two 10-kilowatt transmitters, the station will beam the first and Second Network programs, on Channels 11 and 2 respectively, to Islamabad-e Gharb, Kerend-e Gharb, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Qasr-e Shirin, Khosravi, and 556 villages in the area.

During the commissioning ceremony, in an interview, radio and television chief Mohammad Hashemi said:

[Begin recording] The station was commissioned in 1360 [1981-1982] and beamed programs to a large part of Bakhtaran Province. It was destroyed following five enemy attacks during the imposed war. Our colleagues in the engineering unit of the Voice and Vision Organization started the reconstruction work on the station when the war ended. [end recording]

New TV Satellite Ground Station Commissioned

LD2402155890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1300 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the television satellite ground station in Mo'allem-Kelayeh, in Rudbar-e Alamut District in Qazvin, was commissioned yesterday, during a ceremony, on the auspicious anniversary of the prophetic mission of the prophet of Islam, the Prophet Muhammad, peace and God's mercy be upon him and his clan.

With a power output of 10 watts and radiation power of 150 watts, the station will relay the program of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Channel 1, on channel 7, to villages in the area.

The installation and start-up work on the station was carried out by the Tehran region television and FM Transmitters' Repairs and Maintanence Unit. The Rudbar-e Alamut District Office also cooperated in the construction work on the station.

***Report on 24 Jan 90 Majles Session**

90OI0164A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Jan 90 p 5

[Text] Legislative and parliamentary division:

The Majles held a session yesterday morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding and then continued the session with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian presiding. In this session, following the recitation of verses from the Koran, Messrs. Duzduzani, the representative of Tehran; Me'mari, the representative of Ahar; and Naseri, the representative of Zanjan, spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then the representatives' memos to the country's executive officials were read, and the Majles went into session.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda was the continuation of discussions on the proposal to amend some articles on the guild regulations law, which was ratified by the representatives.

The last item on the agenda was the bill for a legislative amendment to some of the articles of the social security law, which was ratified.

Below, you will read the speeches of the pre-agenda speakers and the details of the discussions.

Duzduzani, Representative of the People of Tehran

The first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Duzduzani, the representative of the people of Tehran. First he greeted the grand soul of the imam and the pure souls of the martyrs, greeted the grand leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i, and said:

I very frankly bestow death, curses, and insults once again on the great Satan, from myself, my constituency, and the entire nation before which I am held accountable. The United States has advanced ahead of all of its allies in opposing values and valuable people. It is opportunistic, looks for excuses, fuels the fire of treason, and prepares the ground for crimes throughout the world. Considering our daily experiences and realizing the imminent conspiracies of this source of corruption, there remains no room for doubt that the leaders of the black house in Washington sacrifice all human rights and dignity once and for all for the sake of the greed and desires of a bunch of ferocious demons. These heinous characteristics stem from the strange nature of humans who reject divine instruction and fall from ascension into descent. Their sinister existence continues from moment to moment in the service of Satan and the destruction of human rights. The United States and its allies have decided what free and conscious humans, particularly the alert Muslims throughout the world, should think of them.

Mr. Duzduzani also referred to his knowledge of the historical and geographical situation of the Soviet Union and the events before and after (the 1917 October revolution of the Soviet Union). Addressing the leader of the Soviet Union, he stated openly:

Mr. Gorbachev, when we became acquainted with you as a person who was competent since his youth, who was going through the stages of change and took proper positions and brought hope to human beings, and when our revered imam sent you that unprecedented, meaningful, historical letter in the manner that he did and received that particular response, and then considering that kind statement of our imam that he (the imam) wanted to open a door to spirituality beyond this world, this was meaningful for all of our nation. Afterwards, I wished to God to have an opportunity to meet you. On the visit of my dear brother, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to the Soviet Union, I was a member of the delegation and tried most attentively to increase my knowledge of you, your country, and its problems. On my return, I spoke of you as a dignified personality, competent, serious, and a careful thinker. The continuation of your positions was also very interesting to the free people of the world. We thought the changes that have occurred in Eastern Europe and continue in the East to be proper. But what can be said of the situation that has recently been created in Soviet Azerbaijan? What did the people really want? Did they want anything other than for the nature of these human beings to manifest itself?

Addressing the leader of the Soviet Union, he also said: The tone of the world of Islam shakes human beings.

Do you allow yourself in your country to call this movement that is in harmony with the political essence of human nature to be regarded as a rebellion? Regard it as Islamic fundamentalism in a way that exists outside the borders of the Islamic Republic and outside the boundaries of the understanding of Muslims. Islamic fundamentalism carries with it a meaning of loyalty. If they have not understood it, they should understand it from here on. Islamic fundamentalism means connecting the movement with all the precise foundations and bases by which the system of creation and the world is controlled. It has been set in motion, moves, changes, and becomes perfected in accordance with those laws and standards. Do you allow this excuse to be used to suppress these people who had been stifled, who had been strangulated and now want to become useful? This was not expected of you (Mr. Gorbachev). What we want is what the Muslims of the world want and what these oppressed people want who are able to breathe today. We all want you to give orders for the tanks to be returned. TASS NEWS AGENCY reported today or last night that the Soviet military expedition to Azerbaijan has had sad consequences. On the issue of the invasion of Afghanistan, our revered imam said in the beginning, before the incident occurred, not to do it. The people of Afghanistan were Muslims and so are these people. The spiritual minds of these people whose whole existence was under pressure has now opened up, and they want to express their views. Is it not meaningful to you when more than a million people march in a funeral procession in Baku? Can this movement be silenced, stifled,

destroyed? This movement might go underground, and we do not want this imposition of force to be pursued and implemented by you. We do not want you to do it. I say to my Muslim brothers and sisters who were related to the pure family of the Prophet and who were from the beginning a part of and dear to all Muslims, particularly to the alert, brave, revolutionary, and religious people of Iran, that your martyrs have joined the best; you are following them; their path was correct and sound and was the path of religion and Islam. You are dear to us. We told the officials of your country, told them whatever we must and will continue to do so. Hence, we invite you to resist in your promise to God.

In the conclusion of his speech, Mr. Duzduzani spoke in the Azeri language, sending a message to the people of Soviet Azerbaijan.

Qasem Me'mari, Representative of the People of Ahar

Mr. Me'mari, the representative of the people of Ahar, was the second pre-agenda speaker. He first assured the grand leader of the Islamic revolution and the president that we are obedient to the leader and the regime.

He then sent reminders to Mr. Gorbachev, saying: The first condition for the stability and establishment of friendship and neighborliness is to trust each other's words, writings, and sincerity of action. I advise Mr. Gorbachev not to act in a fraudulent manner and not to violate human rights. Like my leader, the leader of the free people of the world, his holiness Hoseyn ebn-e 'Ali, I remind you that if you are not afraid of God and resurrection day, at least be honorable. It is unlikely for you who are the leader of a country to be the first one to go back on your own claims and words, to lower yourself in terms of the value and leadership of a country, discriminate among the republics of your country, disunite the Soviet Union, and then blame it on your neighbor.

He continued: May God increase the torment of Fath'ali Shah and Nasereddin Shah with each day. Curse upon them for having separated 17 million Muslims from the Muslim body of Iran in signing the infamous Torkomanchay and Golestan treaties with the Russian Cossacks.

Mr. Me'mari also said: If the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan come to the shores of the Aras River, what do they say but, "God is great, there is no God but God" and, like loyal Shiites of her holiness Zahra, sing lamentations and mourn. If they come to this side it is not for material gain but because they have been cut off from their roots and want to return to their ancestral land, to their relatives and religious brothers, and speak to them of love. With this enthusiasm and love, two of them are drowned in the Aras River, and what do those who arrive safely to this side bring but Korans and pictures of the leader, the historical message that brought the news of the breaking of the bones of communism and reminded you that from now on communism will have to be sought in museums. Mr. Gorbachev, it goes against all honor to launch a military attack on oppressed people who want to attain their human rights and to run them down with tanks, leaving behind 3,500 people killed and wounded. This will destroy perestroika.

To quote the learned lecturer, Mr. Falsafi, one can lean on a spear, but one cannot sit on a spearhead. This kind of military rule, running over innocent unarmed people and martyring them dishonorably, will bring down your government, for blood has always been thicker than the sword. This movement is nothing more than Islam, emotions, and neighborly ties.

Davud Haji Naseri, the Representative of the People of Zanjan

The last pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Haji Naseri, the representative of the people of Zanjan, who referred to his speech during the 10 days of Fajr [dawn] this year and said: We are now at the threshold of the blessed 10 days of Fajr. The Iranian Islamic people and government and the revolutionary Muslims of the world are preparing themselves to honor these divine days, to once again celebrate the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, which, inspired by the pure Islam of Mohammad, has moved with its lofty ideals and has followed its sacred goals to liberate human beings from the shackles and chains of slavery and by returning human attributes has aided in the blossoming of hidden talents and the creation of the government of justice and equity, attaining great and significant successes. The borders of Islamic Iran, which is the motherland of Islam, have not only been restricted and closed, but have penetrated and been exported to the farthest places in the world. In fact, the export of the revolution is related to its lofty ideals and values, because the human attributes of freedom and independence, chastity and purity of the Islamic veil, Islamic thought, bravery and courage, self-sacrifice, martyrdom, irreconcilability and resistance, examples of which we have witnessed in Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, occupied Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Turkey, England, France, Belgium, and recently in the Soviet Union, illustrate in fact the wakefulness of the nations, revolutionary uprising, and the return of the Muslims to self-reliance. The recent movement of the Muslims in Soviet Azerbaijan reveals in fact the pure interest and Islamic emotions they display, and they express their Islamic sentiments and revolutionary motives with Islamic slogans. As the revered imam and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran said in his historic message to the chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet: We Muslims consider the world as our own country and always consider ourselves as sharing in their destiny. Hence, following our revered imam of the people, we feel obliged to support the Muslims of the world and are partners in their destiny. Mr. Gorbachev, who, as the imam said, struck the second and apparently last blow against communism, after the leader of China, and displayed boldness in dealing with the realities of the world, was honored to receive the historic message from the imam. The imam said: I hope you will actually have the honor of eradicating the final decayed layers of 70-year-old communism from the face of history and

your country. The imam warned him seriously, asking him not to be captured in the web of the West and the great Satan in breaking down the walls of the Marxist delusion. Unfortunately, however, we have witnessed the establishment of marshall law in Baku, the transfer of Red Army soldiers from Moscow to Soviet Azerbaijan, and the shooting and massacring of the Muslim people of Baku. Such treatment of the Soviet Muslims has affected the pure sentiments of every Muslim and ignites their revolutionary anger and hostility. The U.S. government, this so-called staunch defender of human rights, considers the slaughter of the Muslims the natural right of the Kremlin. In their belief, Muslims do not have human rights and must be attacked, the excuse being that they are fundamentalists. Mr. Gorbachev must know that the 60 to 70 million Muslims in the Soviet Union make up a significant portion of that country's population. Furthermore, their violent treatment and slaughter will be followed by the anger and hatred of more than a billion Muslims.

The speaker then added: In the same way that Moscow realized its mistake in sending Soviet forces to Afghanistan as well as Czechoslovakia, it shall pay dearly for interfering in the Azerbaijan Republic, unless it soon realizes its mistake and stops the violence and slaughter. On the other hand, as a Muslim who speaks the Azeri language, I must tell the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan that while angry for Islam, in their revolutionary liberation movement they must preserve their alertness in connection with their pure Islamic sentiments, that they not be taken into deviant paths, and they must protect the course of their movement for ethnic and national sentiments against irresponsible and adventurous individuals and groups. Also, the Muslim people of the cities along the border of Islamic Iran and Soviet Azerbaijan will, God willing, welcome, treat, and host the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan in an Islamic manner, one that would please God, and any behavior by them will be regarded the same as it is by the revolution.

In another part of his speech, Mr. Haji Naseri said: As under the leadership of our great late imam we recognized pure Islam and the path of revolution, brought it to victory by the grace of God, and have exported the ideological values of the revolution to other parts of the world, now, after 11 years of practical experience in the revolution, we must implement our executive methods and governmental administration, attend to the condition of the people, advance the Islamic economic society, agriculture, and industry, blossoming and self-sufficiency, the eradication of oppression, the fight against moral and financial corruption, bureaucratic administration, high prices and hoarding in the society, exporting the fight outside the borders of Iran, and making the revolution a model for others.

He considered the foundation of such actions to be dependent on the Majles and said: Indeed, a great deal is dependent on the fundamental work of the Majles, which is now nine years and seven months old, and its third session is 19 months old. The time of the Majles should not be taken up by discussions that are not very valuable or are not fundamental, destiny-making, and defining, and for this session to then end, for then we shall not only have failed to be responsible to those noble people inside our country, but also to have neglected our revolutionary and historical mission. The officials must not lose this opportunity. The first five-year economic, social, and cultural development plan of the Islamic Republic which was ratified by the Majles, after approval by the honorable Council of Guardians, must be, God willing, implemented line by line and carefully. Also, the projected funds must be guaranteed. The funds specified in Note 29 of this plan must be spent fully for fundamental investments in industrial and agricultural affairs, to start the operation of refineries, petrochemical complexes, factories, and incomplete projects in the reconstruction of the country so as to both prevent a number of people from having an excuse or an issue to complain about and ensure that the people will reap the benefits in the future. The officials of the country must know that they are responsible to protect the treasury and how funds are spent, and the Islamic government will make more of an effort to eliminate deprivation.

The representative of the people of Zanjan responded to some points in the pre-agenda speech of Mr. Me'mari and said: The point that I must make in connection with the speech of the speaker before me is that he (Mr. Me'mari) raised the issue of the geographical borders and returned to past history, issues that I feel are my duty to clarify for our great nation. I must say that geographical boundaries are respected by the Islamic Republic, and what is valuable to us are Islamic thought and values, which recognize no boundaries. As I said, Islamic beliefs and revolutionary values have been exported by the bloody, glorious, and victorious Islamic revolution of Iran and the blessed Islamic Republic of Iran beyond the borders and to the farthest places in the world. The nations and all the oppressed people of the world have been affected by the values of the revolution. For this reason, the Muslim people of Soviet Azerbaijan have begun an Islamic, revolutionary movement.

Details of the Discussion

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the continuation of discussions on the proposal to amend some articles of the guild organization law.

Article 13: Article 36 of the guild organization law is to be amended as follows: Trade unions shall be responsible for examining all business permits issued prior to this amendment and to take steps within a maximum of six months to change and issue new permits in accordance with the contents of this law. After the deadline determined, "if the owners of permits fail to claim them," all previously issued permits shall be invalid, and the owners of such permits shall be treated as those who do not have permits.

Article 14: Paragraph three of Article four was amended as follows:

The committee shall be responsible to submit the results of its studies and reports to the board of directors of the guild affairs assembly for a decision.

Article 15: Article 48 has been amended as follows and its notes shall remain valid as before.

The supervisory committee shall be formed with the membership of the directors of departments of: 1 Commerce (committee chairman) 2 labor and social affairs 3 agriculture 4 economic affairs and finance 5 industries 6 health, treatment, and medical education 7 the Islamic Revolutionary Committee 8 city hall 9 the chairman of the city council 10 the director of the production guild affairs assembly for technical services 11 the director of the guild affairs assembly for distribution and services 12 the representative of the prosecutor 13 the representative of the governor general's office or district office in the related city.

The decisions shall be valid with a two-thirds vote of those present.

Article 16: The following paragraph shall be added to Article 49 as Paragraph 5.

5. Examination and inspection of the operations of guild agencies and conformity of actions taken by them with the related laws and regulations.

Note: Guild organizations shall be responsible for providing the necessary cooperation in this regard.

Article 17: Paragraphs 9 to 14 of Article 52 shall be omitted and the following individuals shall be added to it as Paragraphs 9 and 10. Minister of health, treatment, and medical education. Minister of justice.

Article 18: The following shall be omitted from the guild organization law.

Article 11, Paragraph 1, Article 23, Chapter 6, along with Items 46 and 47, and Articles 61, 63, 64, and 65.

Article 19: In the following, the "central council of guilds" shall be omitted and replaced with "related guild affairs assembly":

Paragraph 7 of Article 25; Note 1 of Article 39; Article 50; Paragraphs 4 and 6 of Article 54; Article 60; Notes 1 and 5 of Article 60; Article 62.

Article 20: In the following, the phrase, "central council of guilds" shall be omitted.

Note to Article 13, Article 32, Article 58.

Opinions concerning the income of the heads of the unions shall be the responsibility of the guild affairs assembly, and in regard to the income of the members of the assembly, the responsibility of the supervisory committee. Should differences occur, they shall be investigated in accordance with Note 1, Article 5, and the general regulations for direct taxes.

Article 22: In Article 72, the phrase "central council of guilds" shall be deleted and replaced with "related guild union."

Article 23: From the date of the implementation of this law, all central guild councils shall be dissolved.

The articles in the proposal were ratified by the representatives.

Second Item on the Agenda

The second item on the agenda was the legislative proposal for securing and controlling the eastern borders of the country, which was offered to the Majles with the votes of more than 30 representatives with an urgency one motion.

In regard to the urgency one motion, Messrs. Ha'erizadeh and Sadeqiani spoke in support. The urgency one motion was put to a vote and was ratified.

Third Item on the Agenda

The next item on the agenda was to secure health, treatment, and housing for those covered by the Martyr Raja'i Plan, which was put forth as an urgency one motion.

In regard to the urgency one motion, Mr. Eshaq Jahangiri spoke in opposition and Mr. Harati in support, and it was put to a vote and ratified.

The Last Item on the Agenda

The last item on the agenda was the report on the first round of discussions of the bill on the legislative amendment involving Articles 60, 70, 72, 73, 74, 80, 82, and 83 of the social security law ratified in Tir 1354 [22 June 1975-22 July 1975], concerning all those insured suffering from a bodily handicap or a minor or major disability or have been martyred in the course of the Islamic revolution, which was ratified on 26/6/1358 [17 September 1979].

The general points of the bill were put to a vote and ratified.

The Majles shall hold an open session on Sunday next week.

Nepal

Demonstrations in Kathmandu; Riot Police on Alert

BK0103145690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1435 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 1 (AFP)—Between 250 and 750 student activists held sporadic demonstrations in

parts of Kathmandu Thursday [1 March] as riot police deployed in public areas remained on the alert, witnesses said.

Sources from the banned political parties said the activists had planned to hold the demonstrations in the suburbs of Lalitpur and Bhaktapur to protest the government's supression of pro-democracy activists. On February 18 the banned political parties launched a nationwide political movement calling for the dismantling of the partyless Panchayat (parliament) system of government and for the restoration of human rights.

Home Ministry sources confirmed that at least 50 people were arrested at Lalitpur following the demonstration there. A banned party source said those arrested included three local journalists and several students, adding that about 200 students and other activists were arrested Wednesday in Lalitpur in a bid to prevent Thursday's demonstration in the area.

One of the students from the Min Bhawan Commerce Campus, Rup Kumar Shrestha, who set fire to an effigy Wednesday at Lalitpur, was badly tortured, an official from the pro-democracy Nepal Students union said. The seven factions of the Nepal Students Union have called on authorities at Tribhuvan University (TU) to postpone exams due to start on March 11 because of the recent arrest of most of the students. "If the TU authorities would not listen to our demands we would abstain from the examination under compulsion," a union spokesman said.

Also Thursday relatives of arrested activists and students were seen gathering outside local police jails to try and find out where their missing relatives were. The Nepal Bar Association (NBA) and the Human Rights Organization of Nepal have demanded that the Shrestha Government release the names of those detained and that it provide them with hot food and beds in prison. NBA General Secretary Harihar Dahal said in a statement issued to the government that most places where the activists were held were "dark, humid and very cold," and there was no heating and the prisoners were not given beds.

(Also Thursday in Dhaka some 60 Nepalese students enrolled in different schools in Bangladesh marched to their embassy to protest human rights violations at home, witnesses said. Men and women displaying black badges and carrying placards presented a letter to the Nepalese Embassy to be sent to Nepal's King Birendra, they said, adding the demonstration was peaceful.

(The students in their letter strongly condemned the "heinous killing, mass detention and inhuman torture on detainees" and said it was a "clear and direct violation of human rights." They also demanded that such "outrageous policies pursued by the (Nepalese Government) be stopped immediately" and called for all political prisoners to be set free. The Nepalese Students Association in Bangladesh "expects that the government would take positive attitude upon all," the statement added. There are some 200 Nepalese students in Bangladesh, sources said.)

TIME Magazine Banned

OW0203013390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0043 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 2 KYODO—The Government of Nepal has banned the latest issue of the U.S. news magazine TIME, officials said Thursday.

The magazine's March 5 issue contains an article headlined "Havoc in the Himalayas" on street protests in Kathmandu and other cities since late February against a ban on political parties.

Nepal allows foreign newspapers and magazines to be imported but bans them from circulation if they contain articles critical of the Nepalese establishment.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Reaffirms Support for Kashmiris

BK0103153890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has said that Pakistan would continue to support the Kashmiri people's holy war for the right to self-determination. She was speaking at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the garrison college in Kohat today. The prime minister said Pakistan had also supported the just cause of the people of Palestine and Afghanistan.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said we are passing through a historic phase as communism was coming to its end and the wave of freedom is sweeping the entire world. The prime minister urged the Islamic world to forge unity and solidarity among their ranks to play a positive role on this occasion. [passage omitted

'Ruthless Indian Action' in Kashmir Condemned

BK0203015290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Pakistan has expressed profound grief and shock at the barbaric shooting at demonstrators by Indian security forces in occupied Kashmir yesterday [1 March], resulting in dozens of innocent people being martyred and a large number injured. Pakistan has condemned this ruthless Indian action against the struggle of the Kashmiri people who are only demanding their right to self-determination in accordance with the assurances made to them by the United Nations.

Pakistan has asked India to stop oppressive actions in occupied Kashmir and to mold its policies in line with the movement for freedom and democracy now sweeping the entire world. Pakistan has expressed confidence that the martyrs' sacrifices will not be in vain

and the Kashmiri people will soon achieve their human rights, including the right to self-determination.

Malik Ahmad Saeed Awan, minister of state for information and broadcasting, has said the Pakistani people are completely on the side of the Kashmiri people in their struggle and will continue to provide support to them. Talking to newsmen in Faisalabad yesterday, he said the only solution to the Kashmir problem is to give the Kashmiri people their right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions.

Mir Baz Mohammad Khan Khetran, federal minister for environment and urban affairs, has said that the present government desires a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir problem in accordance with UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement. He was addressing a public meeting near Quetta yesterday.

Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir prime minister, has called upon UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and all UN member countries to use their influence in keeping India from using force against the people of occupied Kashmir. In a message, he urged the UN secretary general to devise measures to provide protection to the people of occupied Kashmir and to help implement the relevant UN resolutions on Kashmir.

Bhutto Reportedly To Seek Reelection on 21 Mar

BK0103090990 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Mar 90 pp 1, 6

[By Ashraff Hashmi]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 28—There are now few reservations that the office of the Prime Minister of Pakistan will be declared vacant on March 20 as the present incumbent is learnt to have decided to seek her re-election from the National Assembly on March 21.

Taking note of the controversy generated by the opposition on the interpretation of Article 91 Sub-section 2(A) of the Constitution Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is said to have told some of her top party colleagues that irrespective of the merits and demerits of the opposition's demand, she has decided to accept their challenge and accordingly was advising President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to summon a special session of the National Assembly under Article 91 2(A) for election of the leader of the House.

Sub-section 2(A) of of Article 91 of the constitution states that nothing withstanding anything contained in Clause 2 (which accords discretionary powers to the President for the appointment of the Prime Minister) after the twentieth day of March, 1990, the President shall invite a member of the National Assembly to be the Prime Minister who commands the confidence of the majority of the members of the National Assembly in a session of the Assembly summoned for the purpose in accordance of the provisions of the constitution.

Fully confident of being elected by the Assembly with at least a majority of 140 members Prime Minister Bhutto, it is said, would take oath of her office on March 23 in accordance with Clause 3 of Article 91 as the second elected Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Clause 3 of Article 91 states that the person appointed under Clause 2 or as the case may be invited under Clause 2(A) shall before entering upon the office make before the President oath in the form set out in the third schedule and shall within a period of 60 days thereof obtain a vote of confidence from the National Assembly.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, it is said, if re-elected would address the nation on March 23. Her election, commented a party's source, would further enhance her prestige inside as well as outside the country, giving a big boost to her image.

Knowledgeable source said that after making up her mind to seek the majority vote in the National Assembly, the Prime Minister has summoned a special meeting of her Cabinet ministers, ministers of state and advisers on March 8 in Islamabad. Accordingly all the federal ministers, the ministers of state and Prime Minister's Advisers have been directed to cancel all their engagements on that day and be available in the capital. The provincial chief ministers of Sind and NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] are also being summoned for consultations.

The top level meeting would review the prevailing political situation in the country and chalk out a strategy with regard to the special session of the National Assembly. These sources are of the view that Benazir Bhutto's reinduction in the office of the Prime Minister would bring some big changes in the governmental structure. The Prime Minister, who had already secured the resignations of all her cabinet ministers, ministers of state and advisers since long [as published] would not be required to formally accept them as with the declaration of the office of the Prime Minister as vacant on March 20 her present Cabinet would automatically cease to exist, giving a free hand to the newly elected Prime Minister to announce a new cabinet.

Other knowledgeable sources said that the special session of the National Assembly is being summoned on March 13 instead of March 21. The Prime Minister, these sources maintained, would seek a confidence vote in this session in order to meet the demand of the opposition.

Sri Lanka

Northeast Council Converts to 'Assembly of Eelam'

BK0103130290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] The Northeast Provincial Council of Sri Lanka today converted itself to the constituent assembly of free and sovereign Democratic Republic of Eelam.

According to PTI, the council has given one year's ultimatum to the Sri Lankan Government to fulfill their 19-point charter of demands. The unanimous decision of the council also said that they would form a provisional government of Independent Eelam from 3d of March next year if the government fails to consider their demands. These decisions were taken at a meeting of the Council held at Trincomalee this morning.

More on Council's Decision

BK0103140790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1230 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Colombo, March 1 (AFP)—The provincial council in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority northeastern state on Thursday [1 March] proclaimed itself a national assembly representing the "Democratic Republic of Eelam," officials in the provincial center Trincomalee said.

"From today until February 28, 1991 this assembly will be known as the national assembly of the Democratic Republic of Eelam," the motion moved by Chief Minister A. Varadarja Perumal said.

The officials said 42 members of Mr. Perumal's Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and its ally the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF) supported the motion. A lone member belonging to President Ranasinghe Premadasa's United National Party (UNP) walked out in protest as the house took up the motion for debate, while 17 members of the Sri Lankan Muslim Congress stayed away from the house.

The officials quoted Mr. Perumal as saying that they were confining the motion for a period of one year to give the government a chance to fulfill a 19-point charter of demands submitted by the EPRLF, which is considered a pro-Indian group. The demands included arrangements for the safety and security of the people of the northeast and autonomous powers to the provincial council.

"If they concede we will revert to the present position," he added. [sentence as received] Mr. Perumal also said with effect from Thursday he had ceased to be the chief minister and his cabinet colleagues were no longer ministers. "We are all members of the national assembly," he said.

He said they contested the provincial council election in 1988 to do public service "but the central government obstructed our work and tried to trample us. We want to protect the heritage and freedom of the Tamil-speaking people," he added. Mr. Perumal said the government could not say that the motion was against the Constitution because it had accepted the demand of the dominant rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, for the repeal of the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution.

The amendment makes it obligatory for politicians and their parties to disavow separatism.

Mr. Perumal also said that the government could not dissolve the council. "We challenge them to do so," he said.

Residents said the council met amidst tight security provided by Indian troops, scheduled to complete a withdrawal from the island by March 31. Indian troops were deployed in the Northeast under a July 1987 peace agreement between Colombo and New Delhi which sought to end Tamil separatism on the island.

Independent Assembly Called 'Joke'

BK0203095690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0940 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Colombo, Mar 2 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government on Friday [2 March] rushed senior officials to the eastern port of Trincomalee to clarify a declaration of "independence" Thursday by the Tamil-majority Northeastern Provincial Council.

Defence Secretary Cyril Ranatunga and Northeastern Province Governor Nalin Seneviratne, who is based in Colombo, flew to the provincial capital of Trincomalee accompanied by several senior civil and military officials, government sources said.

They said the officials would seek clarification from the province's Chief Minister A. Varadaraja Perumal on a resolution passed by the provincial council declaring itself the "national assembly of the Democratic Republic of Eelam."

There was no official comment from the Sri Lankan Government on the resolution, but a senior cabinet minister in charge of provincial councils branded it a joke. "It is a joke. We will not recognize it merely because he has raised a flag and declared a state. Not only us, the entire world will not recognize them," the minister, U.B. Wijekoon, was quoted as saying in the Sinhala daily DAWASA.

"From today until 28th February, 1991, this assembly will be known as the national assembly of the Democratic Republic of Eelam," said the independence resolution moved by Mr. Perumal and adopted by the council. Eelam is the name of the independent state the island's minority Tamils have been fighting for for the past 17 years.

Mr. Perumal, a leader of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), a former guerrilla group turned political, told the council the resolution was confined to a one-year period to give the Colombo [government] a chance to comply with a 19-point charter of demands it has submitted.

The demands include arrangements for the safety and security of the Tamils and devolution of autonomous powers to the provincial council. [passage omitted]

Mr. Perumal said Friday that he hoped [President] Premadasa, as a person opposed to the presence of "foreign troops," would withdraw Sri Lankan forces from the Northeastern Province. He also said he hoped the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] would support him and correct past mistakes.

"We have tried our best to keep Sri Lanka a united country," he said. "The next year is a probation period for Sri Lanka. If they accept (our demands), we will accept" a united Sri Lanka, he said.